

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1663  
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013  
IMPORT OF POPPY SEEDS  
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether white poppy seeds are being imported in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the quantum of white poppy seeds imported in/exported from the country during each of the last three years and the current year, value and country-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of cultivators of poppy seeds especially in Haryana and Rajasthan?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN)

(a)&(b): Yes Madam. The details of imports & exports are at Annex-I and Annex- II respectively.

(c) The poppy seeds are by-products of opium cultivation. The Central Government issues licenses to cultivators for production of opium in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. However, the quantum of production of poppy seeds in the country is insufficient to cater to the domestic demand of the same, leading to imports. The Central Government protects the domestic cultivators of poppy seeds against cheap imports in two ways by: (i) imposing a customs duty and (ii) prescribing a minimum tariff value. At present, the customs duty on imported poppy seed is 25.42% ad valorem and the minimum tariff value is fixed at US \$ 4,395 per MT. The State of Haryana has no licit opium cultivation.