

Import duties on edible oils permitted by WTO

†187. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) the maximum and minimum import duties permitted in the rules laid down by World Trade Organisation (WTO) with respect to the import of edible oils and the import duties being charged currently;

(b) whether it is a fact that the import of edible oils is increasing steadily due to the excessive rebate in the import of edible oils;

(c) the quantum of edible oils imported during the last five years and the details of the import duties charged, year-wise; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the yield of oil seed of the farmers has been adversely affected due to the exceedingly low import duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) As per India's WTO commitments, the maximum rates of import duty India can impose (Bound Rates) on edible oils is 45% for soyabean and olive oil and 300% for other oils. The rate of import duty currently being charged on crude edible oils is 7.5% and that on refined edible oils is 15%. As regards the minimum import duty, WTO Members can apply import duties at any rate not exceeding the Bound Rates.

(b) Increase in imports of edible oil cannot be attributed only to import duty. Imports depend on several factors such as the domestic demand and supply position, international and domestic prices situation and concerns of food security.

(c) The quantum of edible oil imported since 2010-11 is as follows:

Year	Quantity of oil imported (in lakh tonnes)
2010-2011	69.04
2011-2012	84.42
2012-2013	110.18
2013-2014	104.68
2014-2015	127.01

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Rates of import duty charged on crude and refined edible oils during the last five years were as follows:

Year	Rate of Import Duty	
	Crude Edible Oils	Refined Edible Oils
01.04.2008 to 22.01.2013	Nil	7.5%
23.01.2013 to 19.01.2014	2.5%	7.5%
20.01.2014 to 23.12.2014	2.5%	10%
Since 24.12.2014	7.5%	15%

(d) As per Ministry of Agriculture, the production of oilseeds increased over the period 2011-12 to 2013-14, but declined in 2014-15. The decline is attributable to delayed and uneven distribution of rainfall in major oilseed growing States coupled with lower area coverage.

Ancient places of worship in the country

188. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified all the ancient places of worship in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether many ancient places of worship in various parts of the country are not under the protection of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);
- (d) if so, the State-wise/UT-wise details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the location-wise details of ancient worship places/temples identified in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) No data is available with Archaeological Survey of India about ancient places of worship which are not under protection of Archaeological Survey of India throughout the country.