

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 685**  
ANSWERED ON 25/07/2025

**INCREASE IN IMPORT DUTY TO PROTECT APPLE FARMERS OF HIMACHAL PRADESH**

685. SHRI HARSH MAHAJAN

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

- (a) whether Government intends to increase import duty on apples to protect apple farmers of Himachal Pradesh, if so, details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the import duty on apples in the country is 50 per cent, and in countries like United States it is up to 100 per cent, if so, steps taken to protect apple farmers;
- (c) whether apples imported from Iran, Turkey and the United States pose threat to domestic farmers; and
- (d) whether it is a fact that the prices of fertilizers and pesticides are continuously rising, if so, steps taken for providing relief to farmers?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (d): The import duty on apples is 50% in India. In addition, to further protect the interests of apple farmers, there is a Minimum Import Price (MIP) of Rs 50 per Kg for import of apples in India. In United States, the import duty on apple is 0% from Normal Trade Relations (NTR) countries, which includes India. At present, the ministry has not received any proposal to increase import duty on apples.

In addition to above, the apples coming from Iran, Turkey and United States has a landed cost above the minimum import price of Rs. 50/kg. The import price of apples from Turkey is Rs 66.16/kg, Iran is Rs 51.62/kg and that from US is 82.99/kg during FY 2024-25 (Source: DGCIS)

Government has implemented Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy w.e.f. 01<sup>st</sup> April, 2010 for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) Fertilizers. Under the policy, a fixed amount of subsidy, decided on annual/bi-annual basis, is provided on notified P&K fertilizers depending on their nutrient content. Under NBS Scheme, MRP is fixed by fertilizer companies as per market dynamics at reasonable level, which is monitored by the Government.

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