GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1636
ANSWERED ON-01.08.2018

Import of spices from China

1636. Shri Raj Babbar

(a) the details of spices imported from China during the last three years and the current year, year-wise, spice-wise;
(b) whether it is a fact that a study conducted by scientists at the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) has revealed that the south Indian market is flooded with Chinese cinnamon (Cinnamomum cassia) containing high levels of coumarin, a hepatotoxic compound, raising food safety concerns; and
(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a): The details of spices imported from China during the last three years and the current year (up to May,18) year-wise & spice-wise are given at Annexure.
(b)&(c): Yes Sir. A study was conducted by scientists at the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) in collaboration with Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow and published a paper titled "Quantification of coumarin and related phenolics in cinnamon samples from South India using UHPLC-ESI-QqQuT-MS/MS method" in the International Journal of Food Properties (2018, Vol. 21, No.1, 50-57). wherein they have reported high coumarin content in Cinnamon available in the South Indian market, which they presume is because of mixing of Chinese Cinnamon(Cinnamomum Cassia) imported from China. Department of Commerce have not received any such report/proposal for initiating action in this regard.
****

ANNEXURE
India's import of Spices from China for the last three financial years (2015-16 to 2017-18) and the current financial year 2018-19 (upto May, 2018)

HS Code	Commodity	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19 (upto May,2018)	
		Quantity in M.T.	Value in USD	Quantity in M.T.	Value in USD	Quantity in M.T.	Value in USD	Quantity in M.T.	Value in USD
07069010	HORSE RADISH	2.40	14469	2.51	9567	0.20	1469		
07129020	DEHYDRATED GARLIC POWDER	26.00	59714	35.00	188890	20.50	63321	6.00	16566
07129030	DEHYDRATED GARLIC FLAKES	3.10	10160	12.00	33695				
07129040	DRIED GARLIC	12.00	39402	15.50	93285	327.00	1199045	29.00	91325
09041110	PEPPER LONG	3.60	10354						
09041150	DEHYDRATED GREEN PEPPER	0.40	215						
09041190	OTHR PEPPER NTHR CRSHD NOR GRND	4.75	31244	13.92	59384	14.58	126241	2.95	6072
09041200	CRUSHED OR GROUND PEPPER	0.06	392	11.00	199733	5.00	91637		
09042110	OF GENUS CAPSICUM	123.74	220045	25.00	56308	33.40	95451	49.00	87016
09042211	CHILLY POWDER	21.50	42346	253.33	430012	70.00	143750	35.25	72232
09042229	OTHER OF GENUS PIMENTA	2.00	8474	4.00	20649				
09061190	OTHER CINNAMON	25.00	45563	28.00	51123	106.00	179902		
09061910	CASSIA	4125.15	4615851	4520.64	4542007	7289.40	7384489	618.50	650868
09061990	OTHER CASSIA	568.96	605551	62.00	116725	26.00	44911	8.00	13794
09062000	CINNAMON & ITS TREE FLWRS CRSHD OR GRND	52.00	50494						

09081110 IN SHELL 0.01 49
09083290 OTHER CARDAMOM; CRUSHED OR GROUND 11.00 59378
09093129 OTHER SEEDS OF CUMMIN EXCL. BLACK; NEITHER CRUSHED NOR GROUND 50.00 142005
09096111 OF SEED QUALITY 8.00 20659
09096119 OTHER SEEDS OF ANISE 14.90 29782 18.80 36598 7.00 18671 14.01 36855
09101120 DRIED, UNBLEACHED 54.00 93818 80.00 105371 26.30 32306
09101190 OTHER GINGER; NEITHER CRUSHED NOR GROUND 325.11 1041926 158.09 362829 71.00 169116 5.01 12215
09102090 OTHER SAFFRON 0.01 3393
09109923 CELERY POWDER 0.05 382
09109990 OTHER SPICES, NES 200.94 107439 281.09 283520 197.20 104377 110.00 53568
12079100 POPPY SEEDS W/N BROKEN 2363.00 5956092 2227.00 4985277 3619.00 7934887 748.00 1475502
12099170 CHILLY SEEDS 50.50 106357
12119042 GALANGAL RHIZOMES & RTS INCL. GREATER GALANGA 219.55 357423 172.29 288032 246.97 377518 42.50 63801
12119070 MINT,INCL. LEAVES(ALL SPECIES) 0.60 7700 1.08 26339
12119094 BASIL,HYASOP,ROSE MARY SAGE,SAVORY 58.00 84591 100.00 161723
13019013 ASAFOETIDA 1.25 10112
15159020 FXD VEG OILS VIZ. NEEM SD, KARNJ, SLK CTN,KHAKON,WAT MELN,KSUM,RUBRSD,DHUP,UNDI MRTI,PISA,NAHAR 0.93 4195
15159030 FXD VEG OILS VIZ.ARDMDM,CHLLIES/CAPSCUM,TURMRC,AJWN,SD,NGRSD,GARLIC 0.08 1366 0.68 3486 0.05 266
15159099 OTHER FXD VEG FATS & OIL & THEIR FRACTIONS 108.98 394501 107.99 397832 27.40 177483 22.00 103090
21039010 CURRY PASTE 1.53 6089 0.90 2512
21039020 CHILLI SAUCE 1.03 13815 2.50 26796 1.90 6694
21039030 MAJONNAISE AND SALAD DRESSINGS 5.40 18653 15.78 56242
21039040 MCXED, CONDIMENTS AND MIXED SEASONING 0.53 7213 68.68 216143 123.46 414775 30.47 137655
21039090 OTHR MIXED CONDIMENTS & MIXED SEASONINGS 638.44 848409 631.98 853107 120.61 399417 28.25 76233
29061100 MENTHOL 0.72 4317 0.03 1069 148.07 828519
33012400 ESSNTL OIL OF PEPPERMINT(MENTHA PIPERITA) 0.36 10210 1.22 22872 1.57 30608 0.03 912
33012510 SPEARMINT OIL (EX-MENTHA SPICATA) 4.68 117492 0.79 28630 1.92 71920
33012590 OTHERS 23.67 4636545 42.18 21460296 170.62 41204877 38.81 7473232
33012911 ANISE OIL (ANISEED OIL) 0.60 7809 1.01 14748 0.24 3858 0.40 6627
33012914 CARAWAY OIL 0.01 562
33012915 CASSIA OIL 2.12 71791 1.01 39091 2.03 75701 0.03 877
33012917 CINNAMON BARK OIL 0.01 1499
33012918 CINNAMON LEAF OIL 0.02 904
33012921 CLOVE LEAF/STEM OIL 0.18 3171 0.09 7156
33012922 CORIANDER SEED OIL 0.10 7207
33012925 FENNEL SEED OIL 0.03 1002 0.09 3641
33012926 GINGER OIL 0.47 23889 0.81 51638 0.70 64079
33012928 CLOVE BUD OIL 0.03 1506
33012932 NUTMEG OIL 0.36 34674 1.44 99218 0.18 11483
33012935 PEPPER OIL 0.00 1208 0.10 19802 0.34 7055
33012947 GARLIC 0IL 5.70 695123 11.85 1727528 7.48 1312104 0.50 132431
33012948 PAPRIKA 0IL 14.00 401566
33012950 SPICES OIL,N.E.S. 2.34 44067 6.67 124502 5.60 80748
33019012 GINGER OLEORESINS 0.02 3599
33019022 CAPSICUM OLEORESINES 70.00 1410135 21.00 639898 84.80 2267358 139.40 4114182
33019023 CORRIANDER OLEORESIN 0.02 1002
33019029 OLEORESINES OF SPICES N.E.S., 837.78 26086721 1131.61 38802943 979.50 34412785

118.65 3721117
Total Import of Spices from China 9903.57 47944239 10006.49 76476984 13875.86 99683991 2114.10 18863614
*Figures for the financial year 2017-18 and 2018-19 are provisional.
****