

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 07.08.2001**  
**ANSWERED ON**

**SUICIDE BY UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN COIMBATORE H**

1729

SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK

Will the Minister of POWER, TOURISM AND CULTURE, HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS, AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :-

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(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in Rashtriya Sahara of 2nd May, 2001 pertaining to committing of suicide by the 500 people in Coimbatore, who became unemployed due to globalization;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard; and (

(c) what action has been taken by Government for providing employment and immediate financial assistance to the kith and kin of aggrieved families?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

( SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH )

(a) to (c) : Import restrictions have been continuously removed since 1991, as part of economic liberalization programme. However, the removal of restrictions has not altered the overall rate of growth of imports. The growth rate of imports was 15.3% in 1993-94, 23.1% in 1994-95, 36.4% in 1995-96, 13.2% in 1996-97, 11% in 1997-98, 14.2% in 1998-99 and 13.6% in 1999-2000 (in Rs. terms). The import growth rate during the year 2000-2001 was only 5.59% in Rs. terms and 0.27% in US dollar terms. If non oil imports are taken into consideration the picture of imports is all the more reassuring. Such non oil imports, have in fact, registered a negative growth rate of 14.66% during 2000-2001.

Even at micro level the growth in imports has not been of alarming nature. The import data for 714 items, QRs on which were removed on 31.03.2000, for the year 2000-2001, indicates a growth in import of these items by less than 3%. Similarly, the import of 300 sensitive items, which is being monitored by a Standing Group of Secretaries, indicates a decline of 13% during the first three months of this financial year.

As can be seen from above, the fears of domestic market being swamped by imports have not come true. There is nothing to indicate that suicides as mentioned in the newspaper report, if at all true, have any causal linkage with the removal of quantitative restrictions.

However, the imports are being constantly monitored and the Government is absolutely determined to ensure through appropriate use of tariff and other available mechanisms that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to domestic industry.