

TRANSFER OF GUAR SEED TO FREE LIST

JULY 25 (legislative day, JULY 16), 1956.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. BYRD, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following
REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 9396]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9396) to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to place guar seed on the free list, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

GENERAL STATEMENT

Guar seed is a product of the guar plant, and is used to produce a gum which is utilized by the paper industry, certain food and pharmaceutical industries, and other industries, including uranium mining. The guar plant has been experimentally grown in the United States with little success in very limited quantities. Commercial imports of guar seed come principally from India and Pakistan.

Guar seed, while not mentioned by name in the Tariff Act of 1930, is classified for duty purposes under the provision of paragraph 763 of that act relating to "all grass and forage crop seeds not specifically provided for." Provision was made in that act for an original rate of 2 cents per pound for such seeds. Pursuant to a concession granted by the United States in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the rate of duty on seeds were reduced to 1 cent per pound (effective January 1, 1948).

The Tariff Commission has indicated that guar seed is not reported separately in the statistics of imports into the United States but it is estimated that current imports amount to approximately 1,000 tons per year. While there are no figures available for domestic production both the Tariff Commission and the Department of Agriculture report that attempts to promote production in the United States have been unsuccessful, and that production in this country has remained very limited and primarily for use as a soil-conditioning crop. Attempts have been made to utilize guar as a forage crop, but such use has not proved practicable.

Favorable reports on H. R. 9396 were sent from the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, State, and Treasury.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection 4 of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill are shown as follows (new matter is printed in italics; existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

SECTION 201 OF THE TARIFF ACT OF 1930

TITLE II—FREE LIST

SECTION 201. That on and after the day following the passage of this Act, except as otherwise specially provided for in this Act, the articles mentioned in the following paragraphs, when imported into the United States or into any of its possessions (except the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Wake Island, Midway Islands, Kingman Reef, Johnston Island, and the island of Guam), shall be exempt from duty.

SCHEDULE 16

Par. 1601. * * *

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Par. 1819. *Guar seed.*

