

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:269
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2000
CHILD LABOUR IN BEEDI INDUSTRY
PALANIYAPPA GOUNDER KUMARASAMY

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

(a) whether Unites States Customs Service has ordered that hand rolled Indian Beedi Cigarettes manufactured by the Mangalore Ganesh Beedi Works of Karnataka be seized at the border pending investigations over the company's reported use of child labour; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH)

(a) In December 1999, the US Customs issued detention orders against the import of bidis from M/s.Mangalore Ganesh Bidi Works on the basis of a `reasonable suspicion` that forced child labour was being used by the company in manufacturing bidis.

(b) The Government of India has taken up the matter with the appropriate US Government authorities.