

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4105
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2002
WORKING OF CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government are aware that Customs at Indira Gandhi International Airport are acting in an arbitrary manner in levying customs duties on Chair-Lifts being brought by immobile patients;
- (b) if so, the guidelines issued to Customs in such matters;
- (c) whether Customs are not exercising their discretion properly to assist people who require assistance for their mobility; and
- (d) if so, the necessary steps being taken by the Government to inquire into the matter at IGIA that occurred recently ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE(SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) to (d) : Customs are not acting in an arbitrary manner as all goods imported into India are assessed to duty in accordance with the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962, Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and the rules and exemptions issued thereunder. No discretionary powers have been given to the customs officers other than those permitted under the said Acts and rules.

A case of import of 'stair lift' through the Air Cargo Complex, New Delhi, claiming it to be wheel-chair, has come to notice of Government. 'Stair lift' is not covered by the exemption notification.