

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4516
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013
IMPORT OF SUBSTANDARD ARECANUT
Mani Shri Jose K.

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

- (a) whether there have been reports of large consignments of sub-standard arecanut meant for tanning industry being imported through Kandla and Kolkata ports and being used by Gutka units;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof along with the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether similar consignments meant for Nepal via Kolkata port are being diverted en-route within India for use by Gutka units and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the arecanut imported in the country through the Nepal borders in a clandestine way is not fit for edible use; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the preventive action taken/being taken by the Government to tackle this problem?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) to (b) Yes Madam. Reports have been received about the import of arecanut as a vegetable tanning agent under duty exemption schemes received. After examining the matter, Public Notice No. 112 (RE-2010)/2009-2014 dated 15.5.2012 has been issued restricting import of duty free arecanut to the actual users. Non-actual users can import only if such arecanut is specifically listed as a permissible input in the respective Standard Input Output Norm.

(c) to (e) Reports alleging illegal import of arecanut through Indo-Nepal Border have also been received. This has been brought to the notice the Department of Revenue for increased vigil and monitoring of compliance with Rules of Origin.