

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2690
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2013
PRODUCTION OF SOAPS
Rana Shri Jagdish Singh

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

- (a) whether the local small manufacturing units in India particularly in bordering areas of Nepal are on the verge of closure due to imported detergent soap from Nepal and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the material of imported soap from Nepal contains the necessary ingredients and raw material in ratio as prescribed in India and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any investigation has been carried out to ascertain the content ratio of the detergent soaps imported from Nepal and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any discrepancies have been found in the content ratio of the soaps permitted in India and those soaps which are imported from Nepal; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

- (a) Government has not received any representation from detergent soap manufacturers/ associations/stakeholders about the import of detergent soap from Nepal.
- (b) to (e) : As per the ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import items 2012, import of 'laundry soaps' is free. It does not figure in the 'List of Standards under Mandatory Certification' available on the website of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). BIS Act 1986 provides for product certification scheme for Indian importers desirous of getting ISI mark as a quality certification of a particular product indicating conformity to the relevant Indian Standards. BIS also provides for a 'Public Grievance Redressal Mechanism' for making complaints against poor quality of ISI marked products. Such complaints are monitored centrally on monthly basis through Management Control Report.