

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1309  
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009  
EXEMPTION FROM IMPORT DUTIES  
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether air rifles and air pistols have been removed from the restricted items list and exempted from import duty, when these are potentially dangerous weapons;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reasons for removal of import duty of 35% on lead air pellets?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a): Air guns and air pistols (except those of 0.177 calibre allowed for free imports by shooters registered with Rifle Clubs or District/State/National Rifles Association of India) have not been removed from the restricted items list and continue to be under restricted list. Air rifles and air pistols of 0.177 calibre are exempted from payment of import duty with effect from 01-03-2008.

(b) & (c): Air pellets of air rifles or air pistols of 0.177 calibre have also been exempted from payment of import duty with effect from 04-11-2008. Import duty on 0.177 calibre air weapons and 0.177 calibre air pellets has been exempted as these are primarily training weapons used by beginners to learn shooting as a sport.