

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2875
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2015
IMPROPER CHECKING BY CUSTOM OFFICIALS
Chinnaraj Shri Gopalakrishnan

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received by the Government regarding improper checking/scanning by custom officials deployed in sea ports across the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA)

(a): No complaints have been received by the Government regarding improper checking /scanning by customs officials deployed in Sea Ports across the country.

(b) "Nil" in view of reply at (a) above.

However, in the year 2012-13, one case of improper checking/scanning by the customs officials deployed in Nhava Sheva sea port was noticed during investigation made by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), wherein a container of "cigarettes" declared as "furniture" were sought to be cleared inspite of scanning image showing discrepancy. The misdeclared cargo of cigarettes valued at Rs. 5.05 crore were recovered and seized and appropriate action under the provisions of Customs Act, 1962 initiated against all concerned including the officers found to be involved.

Apart from above, the lapses of officers have been identified during investigation by Directorate General of Vigilance and further action initiated from vigilance point of view.

Further, strict instructions have been issued to ensure proper checking/scanning as per laid down procedure.