

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:737
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2015
SMUGGLING OF BANNED ITEMS
Senthilnathan Shri PR.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that many banned items /goods like fireworks etc. are being smuggled through sea ports in connivance with custom officials in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has received any complaints in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Several consignments of fireworks have been seized by the Customs formations during last three years which were being smuggled through sea-ports, details of which are as below.

However, no connivance of Customs officials has been noticed in these cases. There was no seizure of banned i.e. prohibited goods being smuggled into India through sea-ports with the connivance of Customs officials.

Details of Fireworks seized
(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	No. of cases of seizure	Value involved
2011-12	4	97.89
2012-13	3	355.71
2013-14	1	17.50
2014-15	6	506.29

(upto Jan, 2015)

(c)&(d) One complaint dated 03.05.2014 has been received in this regard from General Secretary, Tamilnadu Fireworks and Amorges Manufacturers Association, Sivakasi regarding illegal import of Chinese fire crackers.

(e) On the basis of above complaint, alert notice was issued and suspected consignments originating from China were examined thoroughly. Advertisements were published in leading dailies about harmful effects of Chinese fire crackers which contain hazardous chemicals. Field formations have been suitably alerted and sensitized to prevent smuggling of prohibited/goods like fireworks etc. Surveillance has also been enhanced by the Customs at seaports. Action under the Customs Act, 1962 has been initiated against the guilty persons.