

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2544
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2014
SMUGGLING OF CHINESE FIREWORKS
Venugopal Dr. Ponnusamy

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether incidence of smuggling of Chinese fireworks in the country has been reported and if so, the details thereof during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government has received representations from some quarters in Tamil Nadu in this regard; and
- (c) If so, the details thereof and the corrective action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

- (a) The details of incidence of smuggling of Chinese fireworks in the country during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	No. of Cases seized	Value of fireworks	Fine/penalty imposed	No. of persons arrested
2011-12	6	206.62	157.25	0
2012-13	9	598.02	841.57	6
2013-14	6	77.65	11.44	0
2014-15	2	149.51	0	2

(upto June 2014)

(b)&(c) The Government has received a reference dated 11-04-2014 from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and a representation dated 19-04-2014 of Tamil Nadu Fireworks & Amorcees Manufacturers' Association regarding illegal import of fireworks from China by mis-declaration. The Chinese fireworks, restricted for import under the Exim Policy (2009-14), when found imported without a valid license issued under the Explosives Rules 2008 or illegally imported by misdeclaration / concealment are seized / confiscated, as per the provisions of Customs Act 1962. In such cases, fine / penalty is imposed, and in appropriate cases even arrest is effected.

In this regard, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has issued an Alert Circular No. 5/2014-CI dated 24-04-2014 to sensitize all field formations of Customs including DRI to gather intelligence regarding such illegal imports and to carefully assess and examine consignments of consumer and miscellaneous goods imported by traders from China in order to rule out the possibility of such illegal imports by way of misdeclaration and concealment.