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Title: Need to stop the smuggling of fireworks and put a ban on its sale in the country to protect the interest of indigenous fireworks industries particularly that of Sivakasi.

SHRI MANICKA TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR): In our country, every year during Diwali, people celebrate with great happiness and use firecrackers at that time. This has been the practice for many years and firecrackers made at Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu are used across the country. The factories manufacture firecrackers at Sivakasi employ around 2 lakh people on this project where many men and women work hard to make firecrackers for the happiness of the people in all parts of the country for one day i.e. on Diwali. People in Sivakasi work for 300 days in a year to produce the firecrackers and the economy of Sivakasi depend on this industry.

Now-a-days, the fireworks industry in Sivakasi is facing severe problem due to smuggling of fireworks from China into India by ships and is sold across the country at very cheap price.

I urge upon the Government to make necessary arrangement to keep a vigil on the seaports of India through which the Chinese fireworks are smuggled and the State police can be advised to take steps to check and take action on those who sell the smuggled goods in our country in order to protect the livelihood of employees working in fireworks industries in Sivakasi.