

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3898
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.04.2018

Harmful effects of Chinese firecrackers

3898. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Chinese firecrackers, which are imported in the country, are sub-standard and are harmful to the environment and health; and
- (b) if so, the measures Government has taken to curb the use of Chinese firecrackers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) According to Central Pollution Control Board, Chinese firecrackers generally contain sulphur, sulphurate and chlorate in admixtures which are harmful to the environment and health.

(b) Government of India vide notification No. 64(E) dated 27th January, 1992 has banned manufacture, possession, use, sale etc. of explosives containing sulphur or sulphurate in admixture with any chlorate in the country. Import of 'Fireworks' covered under Indian Trade (Harmonised System) classification [(ITC(HS))] code 36041000 is 'restricted' and no one can import fireworks without a licence / authorisation from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), Nagpur has come out with the chemical formulae for 4 types of commonly used sound producing crackers namely Atom bomb, Chinese crackers, maroons and Garland crackers specifying the proportion/composition as well as maximum permissible weight of every chemical used in the manufacture of said fire crackers. It has also directed that every manufacturer shall mention the details of chemical content on the box of each fire cracker vide its order dated 7th March, 2008. PESO is regularly drawing samples of fireworks from manufacturers and sellers end and get it tested for effective implementation of the said guidelines. Further, other steps taken to curb the use of firecrackers *inter alia* include advisories for noise monitoring on the occasion of Diwali, prohibition of the use of fireworks between 10.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m., publicity regarding the ill effects of the firecrackers and awareness programme.
