

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1802**  
ANSWERED ON 04/08/2023

**IMPACT OF IMPORTED ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS ON INDIGENOUS  
TRADITIONAL PRODUCTS**

1802. SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that many of the indigenous traditional products in the country are affected due to imports of alternative products, e.g., the traditional matchbox industry has been affected due to the import of plastic gas lighters, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has assessed the similar imported products that are affecting the indigenous traditional products, if so, the details of the products, State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken to protect the indigenous traditional products; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

**(a):** Government is committed to protect the indigenous traditional products in the country. Recently, it was informed that the traditional matchbox industry has been affected due to the import of plastic gas lighters. In view of the above Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) vide Notification No.15, dated 29.06.2023 has amended the import policy for Cigarette Lighters under ITC (HS) codes 96131000 and 96132000 from “Free” to “Restricted”. However import shall be “Free” if CIF value is Rs. 20/- or above per lighter.

**(b):** A specific study for assessment of the impact of imports of alternative products on the indigenous traditional products has not been done by the Department of Commerce.

**(c) & (d):** This sector comes under the purview of various ministries and individual ministries take steps to protect the indigenous traditional products. For example, to protect the interest of handloom workers, Government of India has promulgated Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985. 11 textiles articles with some technical specifications are exclusively reserved for production on handlooms. Besides, indigenous and traditional handloom products are promoted and protected by registering them under Geographical Indication (GI) Act, 1999.

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