

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 144
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH JULY, 2016

POOR QUALITY IMPORTS

144. SHRIMATI VANAROJA R.:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether increasing tariff or imposing quantitative restrictions alone is likely to completely prevent poor quality and undesirable imports into the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the other steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to set a standard for import of goods; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती निर्मला सीतारमण) (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) to (d) Increase of tariff or imposition of Quantitative Restriction are measures to regulate the volume of imports of particular commodities. Technical regulations, also called mandatory standards, play a much more important role globally in checking import of poor quality goods.

WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) empowers member countries to mandate standards on goods with the objective of maintaining national security requirements; prevention of deceptive practices; protection of environment, animal or plant life or health; human health or safety. Similarly, WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures empowers member countries to mandate standards on goods with the objective of protecting human, animal or plant life or health.

Various ministries and agencies in Government of India like Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Ministry of Steel, Department of Electronics & Information

Technology, etc. are pursuing these objectives and have mandated standards in the recent past. Any standard mandated by the national authority is equally applicable to domestically manufactured products as well as imported products.

Also, the Department of Commerce has been organizing National Standards Conclaves to sensitize stakeholders/ministries to meet the objectives of the standards like protection of human health or safety, animal or plant life or health, the prevention of deceptive practices, national security requirements or the environment with a view to protect the interests of consumers. The central government is also pursuing the agenda with the state governments and last year, five regional standards conclaves were organized to generate awareness across the country.
