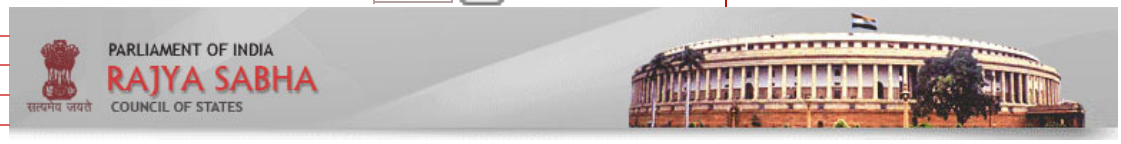

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO-266

ANSWERED ON-10.08.2016

Import of kite strings from China

266 . Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad

(a) whether it is a fact that the kite strings being imported from China are laden with powder of Lead, Magnate, Plastic and Nylon;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry is aware about the death of people and birds taking place owing to the use of such strings for kite flying; and

(c) whether any mandatory instructions have been incorporated in the contract inked with companies involved in import of such strings and the metals used therein, so that it does not cause harm to life and property?

ANSWER

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

a) to c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.266 FOR ANSWER ON 10th AUGUST, 2016 REGARDING "IMPORT OF KITE STRINGS FROM CHINA"

(a) As no specific Exim Code for abrasive string used for kites (manjha) exists under Indian Trade Classification (Harmonised System), 2012, separate import data and other related information regarding abrasive string used for kites (manjha) are not available. Chinese manjha is a loose description given to kite threads made of nylon and may not necessarily be imported from China.

(b) Some petitions/grievances have been received requesting a ban on import of Chinese manjha (kite strings). There are some reports of injuries to humans, animals and birds in some parts of the country.

(c) Import data on plastic/synthetic thread shows that it is imported under four different Chapter Heads: Chapter 39, 54, 55& 56 of Indian Trade Classification [Harmonised System] 2012. In addition, as kite flying kit (toy) containing such thread, it may find entry under Chapter 95of ITC(HS).These are also produced domestically. Placing regulations/ restrictions only on imported synthetic/plastic threads alone, which may have multiple uses, without imposing similar restriction/regulation on domestic sources also would violate India's commitments to the WTO. However, as Retail trade is a State subject, the State Governments have been requested to take appropriate action in the matter. As per the information available, some State Governments including Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have banned procuring/distribution/sale/use of nylon thread and other synthetic non-bio degradable threads used for kite flying which are commonly called Chinese manjha.

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