

Environmental impact of import of cheap chinese goods

†1936. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the waste due to abundance of cheap Chinese manufactured goods in India is increasingly becoming a menace to the environment in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government will establish any channel to monitor goods coming from China; and

(c) if not, in what manner Government will stop import of cheap and sub-standard goods from China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) Economies today across the globe are highly complex and interdependent. No economy can adopt a closed stance without adversely impacting its citizens in terms of meeting their needs. Imports address situations like shortage/non-availability of item, price/quantity preferences of consumers etc. Within this framework, goods are imported into the country subject to all the laws/rules regarding protection of environment, ensuring quality, standards and national security. Further, the Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) lays down that whatever domestic Laws/Rules/Orders/Regulations/Technical specifications/environmental/safety and health norms are applicable on domestically produced goods, the same shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to imports.

India has an elaborate and robust legal framework and institutional set up to protect its environment, life and health of its people, plants and animals. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified the Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008 for environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes. The BIS standards applicable to domestic goods, are also applicable to imported goods. For imported food and edible items, Food Safety and standards Act (FSSA), 2006 and Rules there under are also applicable.

Concerns of domestic producers regarding unfair imports are addressed through measures like anti-dumping and countervailing measures.

Annual production of spices

1937. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual quantity of production of spices in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.