

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 352
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04th FEBRUARY, 2022

ILLEGAL IMPORT OF APPLES

352 SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of apples from Iran are arriving in the country without paying import duty through Afghanistan and Dubai;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto;
- (c) whether Jammu-Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh's apple growers are raising this issue of illegal import of apples in the country and are seeking either ban on this illegal import or increasing import duty to protect the domestic producers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Apple imports from Dubai (UAE) are subject to normal MFN rates of import duty. Duty free imports of apple are allowed from Afghanistan under the South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement, subject to adherence to prescribed Rules of Origins (RoOs). No abnormal imports of apples have been noticed during the current year (April 2021-Nov.2021) as only 1183.79 MT valued at US\$ 1.04 million, imported in the country.

(c) & (d): Yes, sir. The matter was brought to the notice of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) for strict compliance of RoOs. Apple imports from Afghanistan are regulated under a multilateral agreement, i.e., SAFTA and any move to ban imports or impose import duty would require renegotiating of the agreement.
