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Title: Need to check illegal inflow of Chinese fireworks into Indian market.

SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN (VIRUDHUNAGAR): The Indian Fireworks Industry ranks only second in the world, in view of volume of production, next to China. The fireworks industry in India is centered in and around Sivakasi in the Virudhunagar District of Tamil Nadu and it is fulfilling 90% of the domestic demand.

Fireworks in India have been placed in the Restricted List under the EXIM policy of India and import can be done after obtaining appropriate licence from the Government of India. Our Government has not so far issued any import licence for fireworks. But it is seen that there is huge inflow of fireworks from China, clandestinely brought into India, in as much as 600 to 1000 containers every year through prominent sea ports of India and by land through Nepal. It has recently come to light that only 5% of the containers are subject to scanning and also Chinese fireworks seized in India are not destroyed as required under the explosive act, 2008 but they are auctioned and allowed to enter into domestic market. Because of which approximately 2,00,000 workers are being affected at large and a good amount of revenue to State and Central Government is lost. In addition to these two issues, the Chinese fireworks are cheap and the chemicals used are very dangerous.

So, I sincerely urge upon the Union Government through this august House that Chinese fireworks should be banned and awareness may be created among people against the use of Chinese fireworks and also infrastructure may be developed at the entrance of ports to scan all the containers in order to check the entry of contraband/dangerous Chinese fireworks and also to destroy the seized Chinese fireworks.