

AUTHORITIES SUSPECT MIS-DECLARATION OF VALUE AND MAKE OF DEVICES

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Vivo Exports worth \$15M Blocked at Delhi Airport

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New Delhi: An intelligence unit of the finance ministry has blocked exports of around 27,000 handsets worth about \$15 million by Chinese company Vivo, people familiar with the matter said. The consignments, headed to Thailand and Saudi Arabia, have been stuck for over a week at the Delhi airport with the Indian authorities suspecting misdeclaration around the value and make of the devices.

It has been alleged that the smartphone company was trying to export superior quality goods by incorrectly declaring the model of the handsets. Directorate of Revenue Intelligence officials stopped the consignments and on scrutinising the contents, they found a mismatch in the international mobile equipment identity (IMEI) numbers of the handsets in the consignment and the models declared by the company, the people said.

Vivo didn't comment on ET's queries till the time of going to press on Wednesday.

The mobile phone industry, meanwhile, has termed the DRI action as harassment meted out by a few field officers, with industry group India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA) writing to the government seeking its intervention to stop

such practices.

Vivo has just started exports of mobile phones to Thailand and Saudi Arabia and is also considering shipping India-made devices to Sri Lanka and Nepal. According to people in the know, the company has asked its China teams to stop exporting to these countries, which would henceforth be serviced out of India.

But the company's export shipments have been delayed amid examination by the DRI, a unit of the finance ministry.

Calling a Halt

Authorities...

Checked outbound shipments by verifying int'l mobile equipment identity number

Found a mismatch



As per industry executives, DRI officials have been checking the IMEI number of each handset after unboxing the devices for all consignments from Vivo.

The company tried to explain to the officials that if the department continues this practice of opening and checking IMEI of each device,

then the devices can't be exported. The authorities, however, said they found a mismatch in the IMEI numbers and that the goods had hence been detained for further inquiry, according to the people in the know.

Chinese smartphone companies including Vivo have started to export mobile phones from India following a nudge from the government.

The mobile phone industry feels that the DRI action will make it tough for Chinese firms to comply with the government mandate and also could possibly derail the make-in-India goals.

"...we would like to bring to your attention about the current impasse whereby one of the biggest mobile phone brands operating at a global scale, Vivo Mobile, is found struggling to export mobile phones out of India due to harassment meted out by a few field officers," the ICEA wrote to the ministry of electronics and IT (Meity).

Economic Times at 8.12.22

EXPORTS OF BROKEN RICE UP 33% TILL SEPT



Exports of broken rice increased 33.37% to 23.82 lakh tonne during April-September FY23 as against 17.86 lakh

tonne in the year-ago period, Parliament was informed. In a reply to the Lok Sabha, MoS for

Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel said there has been a sudden increase in demand for the Indian broken rice in the international market due to geo-political reasons. She said that exports have risen about three times in the last four years from 12.21 lakh tonne in 2018-19 to 38.90 lakh tonne in 2021-22 in volume terms.

AUTO EXPORTS RISE 36% TO 5.6M IN FY22



The total number of auto-mobile exports increased to 5.6 million in 2021-22, from 4.1 million in 2020-21, registering a growth of 35.9%, the Lok Sabha was told. Of this, export of passenger vehicles including cars in-

creased to 577,875 in 2021-22 from 404,397 in 2020-21, a growth of 42.9%. In 2019-20, the number of PVs exported was 662,118. "In view of the supply disruptions post-Covid and Ukraine-Russia conflict there was a shortage of chips/ semiconductor," said Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel.

No Export Sops for Pulse Trade

There is no proposal to offer export subsidies to pulse traders, MoS Anupriya Patel told the Lok Sabha, adding imports of tur and urad were kept under 'free' category after analysing various aspects.

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Sugar output set to drop 7%, could crimp exports

RAJENDRA JADHAV
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THE COUNTRY'S SUGAR output is likely to fall 7% this year as erratic weather conditions have cut cane yields, which could dampen exports from the world's biggest producer of the sweetener, farmers, millers and traders said.

Lower sugar exports from India, also the world's second biggest exporter, could lift global prices and allow rivals Brazil and Thailand to increase their shipments.

"The crop was just looking like last year but when we started harvesting we realised that yields were very low," said Pradip Jagtap, a farmer from the Solapur district of the western state of Maharashtra, India's No.1 sugar-producing state.



This year, Jagtap could gather 530 tonnes of cane from his nine-acre plot, down from the previous year's 750 tonnes.

Just like Jagtap, the 192 other farmers from 11 key cane-producing districts of Maharashtra told Reuters that prolonged dry weather conditions during summer and then heavy rains later hit the cane crop.

"The summer was harsh and then we received too much rainfall from July," said farmer Baban Karpe from Kolhapur. "The fields were waterlogged

and the crop didn't get sunlight for weeks."

On average, farmers reported a 15% drop in cane yield, but in some pockets, they said the per hectare loss would be 35%.

Maharashtra, which accounts for more than a third of the country's sugar output, was expected to produce a record 13.8 million tonnes of sugar in the current marketing year that began on Oct. 1, up from the last year's 13.7 million tonnes, according to the state government.

But a 15% drop in cane yields could bring down Maharashtra's sugar production to 11.7 million tonnes, said a senior official of a sugar mill and a dealer with a trade house. Both declined to be named as they are not authorised to talk to the media.

— REUTERS