

Indonesian cigarettes worth Rs 9 crore seized in Chennai

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CHENNAI: Customs officials at Chennai port have seized 70.56 lakh of Indonesian cigarettes, worth Rs 9 crore.

An official release said Chennai Customs, Sea Port, had recently intercepted a consignment of



Indonesian cigarettes which were seized in Chennai

nine containers declared as gypsum powder imported by M/s Kisan Exports, Dindigul. The consignment, originated from Iran, was loaded at Jebel Ali Port, UAE.

On examination of the consignment, 490 brown cartons covered with white polypropylene sack were found concealed along with the gypsum powder bags (Gypol Brand). When the cartons were opened, sixty boxes of cigarettes, each containing 20 packs with the brand name "Gudang Garam International" of Indonesia, were found. In total, 70.56 lakh cigarette sticks were

recovered. They were seized under the provisions of the Customs Act 1962.

As per the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution Act, 2003 (COTPA 2003) , cigarette packets shall have health warning to cover 85% of the principal display area of the package (60% shall cover pictorial warning and 25% shall cover textual health warning). The seized cigarette packets were found to be printed with statutory warnings in English and Arabic, covering less than 50% display area of the package.

As per Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodity) Rules 2011, the name and address of the manufacturer/importer or packer, quantity of the product, month and year of manufacturing and retail sale price are mandatory. However, the same were not found printed on the seized cigarette packets.

'Gudang Garam' brand of cigarettes are made up of crushed clove, clove oil and tobacco, which give the cigarettes a unique clove flavour and are popular among youth. Since the pictorial warnings on the pack is less than the mandatory 85%, the smoker believe that they are smoking much safer cigarettes than Indian cigarettes, according to customs officials.

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