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Committee on Import Licensing

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IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM OF INDIA

QUESTIONS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION TO INDIA REGARDING ITS ANNUAL NOTIFICATION (G/LIC/N/3/IND/13/REV.1)

The following communication, dated 26 November 2013, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the European Union.

Following India's Import Licensing notification (G/LIC/N/3/IND/13/Rev.1) of 24 September 2013, we have the following questions:

- India, in its notification describes the 'main licensing system'. Could India clarify whether other licensing systems are in place? In particular, could India clarify whether the legislation leaves the designation of products to be subject to licensing to administrative discretion? Should it be the case, could India submit further details?
 - Could India provide the rationale for maintaining import licensing for live animals, including fish and planting material?
 - According to point 6.I of the notification, India maintains import quotas on products covered under ITC (HS) Code Nos. 25151100, 25151210, 25151220 and 25151290 (marble and similar stones). With reference to this measure, could India clarify the following issues?
 - Could India reply to the questions under point 6.III of the questionnaire with specific reference to the import quotas on marble and similar stones?
 - As asked at the last Import Licensing Committee, we would welcome further clarifications on how the import of marble and marble products would pose safety issues, and how such issues are handled with regards to India's domestic natural stone and stone processing industry.
 - Similarly, could India submit further clarifications on how the quantitative restrictions on importing marbles relate to security concerns, and how such concerns are handled with regard to India's domestic industry?
 - Then, could India provide explanations on how environmental concerns relating to natural stone industry are handled in India and with regard to imports and India's domestic industry?
 - In the end, India stated that the minimum import price is justified for quality reasons. In this respect, could India indicate what measures, if any, India has put in place with regards ensuring commensurate quality for India's domestic industry?
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