 Seminar on Combating Counterfeiting and Smuggling  
*An Imperative to Accelerate Economic Development*

Venue: The Lalit Great Eastern, Kolkata - June 5, 2018

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**Millennium Post**

**Counterfeiting likely to cause loss of over 5 million jobs globally by 2022: FICCI**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT**

KOLKATA: A recent FICCI report has revealed that the total employment loss globally due to counterfeiting activities is expected to rise to 4.2 to 5.4 million jobs in 2022.

It was 2 to 2.6 million jobs in 2013 and in 2022, the approximate increase would be 110 percent.

Sadhvan Pande, the state Consumer Affairs minister, said: “Counterfeiting is a big issue in India which is affecting our revenues, particularly the indirect taxes.” In the state of West Bengal, the minister cited examples of counterfeit products such as tea, cream etc which were finding its way to the retail market owing to their low prices. Further, he added that illicit trade in cigarettes is also a big menace in the state, as they are being smuggled from neighbouring countries and are readily available across the markets in Bengal.”

Mayank Jalan, chairman, FICCI - West Bengal State Council and CMD, Keventer Agro Ltd, said: “Counterfeiting and smuggling adversely impact industries, consumers, government and economies as a whole. It is imperative to understand the need for safeguarding the rights of legitimate industry in developing competitiveness in various sectors of the economy.”

They were speaking in a seminar – “Combating Counterfeiting and Smuggling – An Imperative to Accelerate Economic Development” – organised by FICCI CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy) on Tuesday.

According to a recent FICCI report, “Illicit trade: Fueling Terror Financing and Organised Crime”, counterfeiting is the second largest source of income for criminal activities such as terrorism.

It has also been stated that the customs, police department and the state enforcement agencies, in the last couple of months, have taken several actions in Bengal against those dealing in counterfeit and other illegal products.
KOLKATA: Counterfeiting of products have become a "big industry" in India that is impacting the consumers as well as the revenue earned by the governments, a senior West Bengal minister said here on Tuesday, urging the police and state agencies to be more vigilant to curb such practices.

"Counterfeiting has become a very big industry. Products like tea and cigarette of all the big brands are being counterfeited. I do not know whether the government of India is focussing on this matter because it is impacting the revenue, particularly in the segment of indirect taxes. "Also the consumers are unknowingly using bad quality products while paying for big brands," state Consumer Affairs Minister Sadhan Pande said at a Conference on Combating Counterfeiting and Smuggling, organised by Ficci CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting "Activities Destroying the Economy") here. "We have to stress more to curb counterfeiting of products and cases of smuggling. We have to be more vigilant to stop such practices. The concerned government offices and police have to be very strict about counterfeiting and smuggling," he added.

Pande said that counterfeit products such as tea, cream etc were finding its way to the retail market in the guise of branded products owing to their low prices while products like ganja, cigarettes and fake notes were being smuggled in from neighbouring countries.

"Many foreign brands of cigarettes are found without any price tags in certain Kolkata markets and are sold at unregulated prices. Also these brands are smuggled in countries like Nepal and Bhutan. We are taking steps to curb these practices," he said.

Deepankar Aron, Additional Director General of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence's Kolkata zonal unit, who was also present at the session, said his agency has seized counterfeit and smuggled products worth Rs 350 crore apart from gold and drugs in the last financial year.

"Seizure of tobacco products worth Rs 110 crore has been made. Also 110 kgs of gold worth Rs 430 crore have been seized in the last one year," he added.

The Political Business Daily

PBD BUREAU
KOLKATA, JUNE 5

FICCI CASCADE today organized a seminar "Combating Counterfeiting and Smuggling — An Imperative to Accelerate Economic Development". The seminar discussed the importance of increased awareness on the hazards of counterfeiting and smuggling, and the need for effective enforcement to enhance India’s economic development.

Shri Sadhan Pande, Minister in Charge, Consumer Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal, and Chief Guest at the meeting stated counterfeiting is a big issue in India which is affecting our revenues particularly the indirect taxes. In the State of West Bengal, Minister cited examples of counterfeit products.
Counterfeiting of products now big industry in India: West Bengal Minister Sadhan Pande

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"Also the consumers are unknowingly using bad quality products while paying for big brands," state Consumer Affairs Minister Sadhan Pande said at a press conference in Kolkata on Tuesday.
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COUNTERFEITING OF PRODUCTS NOW BIG INDUSTRY IN INDIA:
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Prabath Khabar
Dainik Viswhamitra

Samagya