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PRESS RELEASE

No Blockage by India of European Olive Oil: Reports Incorrect

New Delhi, August 7. Contrary to media reports and statements by interested parties, there are no consignments of olive oil lying un-cleared at Indian ports. Several media reports have stated that scores of containers of olive oil have been denied entry to India on the technical ground of salt content or lack of nutritional information. These reports also state that this is a retaliatory measure by India in response to the rejection of Alphonso Mangoes at European ports. All such reports are incorrect and the olive oil industry in India does not currently have un-cleared consignments that have been denied entry into India.

The salt content issue refers to Table Olives and not Olive Oil. The Indian trade standards for Table Olives are different from the trade standards in Codex, for example Olives Darkened By Oxidation must have a minimum sodium chloride percentage of 7% in brine whereas in Codex it is GMP. However, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has agreed in principle to clear goods that are in compliance with the Codex Standards for Table Olives. Some goods have been cleared and others are in the process of being cleared. The Indian Olive Association (IOA) has also made a request to FSSAI to amend the Indian standards for Table Olives so as to be in alignment with the Codex trade standards.

VN Dalmia
 President

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