



**DGFT lifts the export ban on bamboo charcoal**

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The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has been requesting the government to lift the ban on bamboo charcoal so that the bamboo can be used optimally. KVIC chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena wrote to Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal regarding this in February 2022.

In India, Bamboo is used to manufacture agarbatti. 16% of the bamboo is used for manufacturing bamboo sticks, whilst the remaining 84% go to waste. Saxena had suggested that converting this waste to “Bamboo charcoal” would be great, even though it has limited use in the domestic market, but it has huge demand in the international market.

The Indian Bamboo industry was not able to take hold of this opportunity due to the export prohibition. However, now the Directorate General of Foreign Trade has lifted the export prohibition on bamboo charcoal on May 20 2022.

The notification stated, “All the bamboo charcoal made from bamboo obtained from legal sources are permitted for export subject to proper documentation/certificate of origin proving that the bamboo used for making charcoal has been obtained from legal sources.”

Mr Saxena thanked Union minister Piyush Goyal for this move and said this would help reduce the high input cost of raw bamboo and make the bamboo-based industries more profitable, especially in the rural areas. Indian bamboo Industry was struggling with high input costs due to insufficient utilisation of bamboo because of the ban on bamboo charcoal.



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