



ALL INDIA AGARBATHI MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry Buildings
KEMPEGOWDA ROAD, BANGALORE - 560 009.

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Ref. No.

Date.....

Statement of Case

A. State of Karnataka

This memorandum cum application is being submitted by the All India Agarbathi Manufacturers Association (AIAMA) , FKCCI Building, K.G.Road, Bangalore – 560 009 to substantiate and establish that Oodabathi / Agarbathi also known internationally as Incense stick / Joss stick, a successor product to Dasanga and Dhooopa originated in the erstwhile princely state of Mysore now known as the state of Karnataka.

The earlier princely state of Mysore ceased to exist on the birth of Karnataka state on 1st November 1973. The most well known rulers of Mysore was Tippu Sultan, called affectionately Tiger of Mysore, son of Hyder Ali. Srirangapatana was the capital of his kingdom. The Wodeyar family ruled the state, until the state acceded to the Indian Union.

Some of the other important dynasties which ruled over old Mysore kingdom were the Gangas, the Cholas, the Hoysalas. The Vijayanagara Empries which filled the vacuum created by the fall of the Hoysala dynasty will be remembered for Krishnadevaraya (1509-29) considered to be one of the most enlightened kings.

B. Description of goods

Oodabathi / agarbathi is a product which diffuses fragrance, when lighted and which has been in continuous usage over centuries, was mainly used in places of religious worship as well as at the residence of nobles. It emitted fragrance since it was fashioned with aromatic leaves, roots, flowers, aromatic oils etc. which gave-out fragrance when lit.

C. Proof of Origin

The Karnataka state Gazette (1988) states that "the manufacturers of agarbathi (joss sticks) largely depended on a number of forest based raw materials, like Sandal, Spent Wood Dust, White Chips, Halmaddi etc. besides pure Sandalwood and Sandal oil". The species which produced the best Sandal oil i.e Santalum album and that which produces Halmaddi i.e Ailanthus malabaricum can be found to be naturally growing in this state. It further goes on to state that " the manufacture of agarbathi was started approximately in 1885 at Mysore – T.L.Upadyaya of Thirthahalli Taluk of Shimoga district and Attar Khasim Saheb of Thanjavur were the founders of this industry.

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In 1924, Agarbathis were exhibited by the late T.L.Upadyaya in Wembley Exhibition London, and won a Certificate of Merit". "The Sadavaidyasala Pvt. Ltd., established in 1913 at Nanjangud is manufacturing tooth powder, indigenous medicine, perfumery and agarbathis".

D. Method of Production

Natural aromatic substances, as mentioned in the preceding paragraph were made into a paste, then rolled onto a thin bamboo stick, and then dried in the sun.

However certain type of bathis were manufactured as wet bathis. They burnt slowly.

Dasanga was and even today is in powder form. This powder when sprinkled over fire, emits fragrance.

Doopa were smaller sticks, which did not have bamboo at its core.

The raw materials used to fashion agarbathi, dhoopa and dasanga are same. Traditionally, they were rolled by hand.

Note: Illustrative list of raw materials enclosed.

E. Uniqueness of the product

Agarbathi which originated from Karnataka was unique since the raw materials used in its manufacture was originally found in this state only. For example while sandalwood grows in many parts of India and various other countries, the sandalwood species Santalum album grew naturally in this state only. Ailanthus Malabaricum which yields Halmaddi also known as mattipal, originated in this state. In the slokas which were forwarded to AIAMA by His Holiness, Sri.Sankaracharya of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam, these two ingredients find mention as constituents of Dasanga, Dhoopa and Agarbathi. The presence of these ingredients as well as others, conferred uniqueness.

F. Quality Controle

The AIAMA along with the Government of Karnataka has promoted FAME R&D Centre, No.18/3, 1st Main, Sampangiramnagar, Bangalore - 560 027. Senior members of the industry periodically assemble here to evaluate the olfactory qualities of these products. FAME also conducts classes in perfumery. It has also commenced distance learning programmes.

Enclosed: Circular and brochure.