

News Item Captioned "Kidney Stone-Surgeons Oppose Machine Imports"

102. SHRIMATIGEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-items captioned 'Kidney stone -surgeons oppose machine imports' appearing in the Hindu dated December 31, 1988 ; and

(b) the reaction of Government to the reservation expressed by the senior surgeons against the free imports and use of lithotripsy machines for treatment of kidney stones without surgery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJKHAPARDE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The equipment is included under Open General licence, list II Appendix 6 of Imports Exports Policy 1988-89, as well as under the list given in the notification 65/88 Cus, dated 1.3. 1988 for concession of custom duty exemption. Charitable and Semi-charitable organisations approved by respective State Government are permitted 100% custom duty exemption on this item with approval of Expert Committee including Urologist/Nephrologist as member.

We have not received any complaint

from any patient or any surgeon or nephrologist so far. There is no lithotripsy machine in any Central Government Hospital. AIIMS is about to procure one.

[Translation]

Import of Timber

103. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of timber proposed to be imported during the current year and the countries from which it is proposed to be imported; and

(b) whether the timber has been imported in the past also and if so, the details thereof for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) Import of timber has been liberalised in order to conserve forests and is permissible under Open General Licence. It is estimated that about one million cu.m. of timber valued at over Rs. 200 crores would be imported during the current year. Some of the countries from where timber is being imported are USSR, USA, Malaysia, Burma, Thailand, Brazil, Papua New Guinea etc.

(b) Quantity of timber imported and its value for 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 are given below:-

Year	Quantity (in cu.m.)	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1984-85	19,122.15	3.81
1985-86	2,19,506.01	37.46
1986-87	8,44,297.02	136.35