

(c) The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country including the land borders has been geared up. Close co-ordination is being maintained with all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling.

IMPORT OF TITANIUM DIOXIDE

1510. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be please to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to remove import of Titanium Dioxide from Open General Licence list; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b) : Review of Import-Export Policy is a continuous process and necessary corrective measures are taken, as and when the situation so warrants, after taking into consideration all the relevant factors and keeping in view, the needs of the economy. The changes in the policy as and when made, are notified in the Gazette of India. India.

ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES ON COTTON YARN

1511. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR KANODIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government urged to take action on ECC proposal" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated July 20, 1991 wherein it has been stated that ECC plans to impose provisional anti-dumping duties on imports of cotton yarn from India;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

On 22 March, 1990, the EEC initiated anti-dumping proceedings against imports of cotton yarn from Brazil, Egypt, India, Thailand and Turkey. The exporters and the Export Promotion Council were advised to engage professional lawyers familiar with EC anti-dumping regulations to handle the case. A representation was also made to the EC Commission through our Embassy at Brussels that since Indian exports of cotton yarn were already restrained under the bilateral textiles agreement within the frame work of the MFA, the investigation was unwarranted. However, the EEC continued with its investigations and two teams of EEC officials visited India in October and November 1990. A further representation was made to the EC Commission through our Embassy at Brussels in May 1991 raising a number of technical issues concerning the investigations. In addition, it was pointed out that :—

(i) The market share of Indian cotton yarn was too low to cause material injury.

(ii) Since exports of cotton yarn were already subject to quantitative restrictions under the MFA, exports within this limit should not be regarded as causing material injury to the domestic industry.

(iii) As India is a developing country, the possibility of constructive remedies as provided in the GATT Anti-Dumping Code should first be explored before applying anti-dumping duties.

(iv) Consideration should also be given to the fact that Indo-EEC trade has shown a persistent and steadily widening trade gap adverse to India.

According to information received from our Embassy in Brussels, the EEC Anti-Dumping Advisory Committee met on 25 July 1991 and approved provisional anti-dumping duties against Indian exporters ranging from 0.2% to 15.9%. Provisional anti-dumping duties have also been approved in respect of import from the four other countries ranging from 0.1%