

**Car Confiscated by Collector of Customs,  
Calcutta**

4990. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5215 on 3 May, 1985 regarding car confiscated by Collector of Customs, Calcutta and state :

(a) the dates of (i) confiscation of the foreign Datsun Car ; (ii) the order issued for its repair ; and (iii) the auction for its disposal ;

(b) whether there were any other instances of confiscated foreign cars being repaired and road-tax paid for their use before putting there for public auction ;

(c) whether the belated request by the Collector of Customs, Calcutta for regularising his action was turned down by the Central Board of Excise and Customs ; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not taking suitable action against the Collector for violating the rules ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) (i) The car was confiscated on 23.1.1983. (ii) Orders for its repair were issued on 12.4.1984. (iii) Disposal action started in November 1983. Sale by auction was tried seven times and through tender six times. The highest offer was received on 23.7.1985 and the car was sold.

(b) One mini-bus was registered in November 1985 to keep it ready for emergency use, by the Calcutta custom house.

(c) The confiscated car was kept road-worthy to meet emergent requirements of anti-smuggling work. There was therefore no question of any request from the Collector of Customs, Calcutta for regularising his action.

(d) In view of (c) above, the question does not arise.

**Protocol Signed between India and German**

4991. SHRI B. V. DESAI :  
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a protocol signed by the Indo-German Joint Economic Commission on 1 September purports to open a long-awaited chapter in bilateral economic relations ;

(b) if so, whether the Indo-German Joint Economic Commission set up in 1978 with a task of airing bilateral economic issue and paving the way for a smoother implementation of mutual interest, was meeting for the sixth time ;

(c) if so, to what extent Indo German Joint Economic Commission made the purposeful decision which could help both the countries ;

(d) whether the latest protocol shows that there is a change in attitude of the Germans towards India ; and

(e) to what extent this change of attitude has helped in promoting the trade between the two countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No protocol was signed by the Indo-German Joint Economic Commission on the 1st Sept., 1985. However, on the 29th August, 1985, at the conclusion of the 6th Session of the Indo-FRG Joint Commission for Industrial and Economic Cooperation, the minutes of the Session were signed by the heads of the respective delegations.

(b) The above commission was meeting for the sixth time ;

(c) The commission was useful in airing issues of bilateral economic importance discussing them and in paving the way for a smooth implementation of bilateral economic issues ;

(d) and (e) The attitude of the Germans towards India remains as cordial as in the past, with increased interest in bilateral cooperation.

#### **Import of Soda Ash through MMTC**

4992. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have authorised the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation to import 10,000 tonnes of Soda Ash to meet the needs of small-scale users like detergent and silicate units ;

(b) if so, whether the step was taken to eliminate mal practices by private trading houses in import of soda ash ;

(c) the other proposals that are being considered to bring down the prices of imported soda ash ; and

(d) whether Government are fully aware of the plight of small units dependent on private trading houses for imported soda ash supplies as domestic production is not sufficient to meet their requirements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b) Government have decided to allow minerals and Metals Trading Corporation to import 10,000 M.Ts of soda ash for off-the-shelf delivery to the small scale units who are not in a position to import the material themselves under OGL.

(c) and (d) In order to increase the supply of soda ash, additional capacity has been created to meet future demand. Duty has been substantially reduced on import of soda ash to enable the Actual Users to import the same at a reasonable price.

#### **Indo-Swiss Joint Commission for Trade and industrial collaboration**

4993. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-Swiss Joint Commission will identify areas of trade and industrial collaboration ;

(b) if so, whether bilateral trade between India and Switzerland has not shown the growth in regard to India's trade with the European Community ;

(c) if so, the main decisions taken in the Indo-Swiss Joint Commission meet in Berne ; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the trade between the two countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (d) The Fourth Session of the Indo-Swiss Joint Commission held at Berne in September, 1985, among other things, identified the areas of expansion of bilateral trade. Several trade promotion measures were contemplated, particularly for product development and marketing. The need for transfer of technologies was stressed, keeping in view the scope for identifying new areas where Swiss know-how could be used and complemented by Indian partners.

India's exports to Switzerland were of the order of Rs. 116.97 crores in 1984-85 against exports to the extent of Rs. 95.63 crores effected during 1982-83. India's imports from Switzerland increased from Rs. 111.18 crores in 1982-83 to Rs. 161.45 crores in 1984-85. Switzerland is not a member of the European Economic Community.

#### **Imposition of variety of levies on the Minerals in the States**

4994. SHRI B. V. DESAI :  
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are concerned over the increasing tendency among the State Governments to impose a