

(b) how do these orders reconcile with Government's claim that the procedure for customs clearance has been simplified and causes no delay or harassment to the travellers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). No such orders have been issued. In fact, majority of passengers 'Walk Through' the Green Channel and those opting for the Red Channel are cleared on the basis of their oral declarations. However, random checking of passengers on a selective basis is being done in both the Green Channel and the Red Channel. In addition, to prevent abuse of the facility, a few flights are occasionally subjected to 100% examination. Since the examination is done on a selective basis only to prevent abuse, it cannot be said to be contrary to the simplification and facilitation measures adopted to accelerate the clearance of passengers.

Central Excise Duty on Glassware Industry

5081. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the glassware industry in the country under the Central Excise and Salt Act, is subject to a very heavy rate of Central Excise in the automatic and semi-automatic sectors, ranging from 35 per cent to 5 per cent depending upon the items produced and also 5 per cent special excise duty;

(b) whether this also applies to U. P. Glass Manufacturers' Syndicate; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The basic effective rates of excise duty on glass and glassware, other than flat glass, laboratory glassware, glass shells, glass globes and chimneys for lamps and lanterns, laminated glass and toughened glass, is 15% ad-valorem applicable on other glass and glassware produced by manually operated press by manufacturers having pot furnaces and not using power in relation to such manufacture. The rate of duty of 20% ad-valorem is applicable to glassware (except on tableware

and articles of decoration) produced by mouth blown process and glassware produced by manually operated press by manufacturers having tank furnaces. The duty is 25% ad-valorem on glassware including tableware produced by semi-automatic process, and tableware and articles of decoration produced by mouth blown process. Certain products covered by 'other glass and glassware' bear a duty of 35% ad-valorem. Laboratory glassware, glass bangles and glass beads, unfinished glass inners, broken glass, and glass ampoules and glass vials for injectables, attract nil rate of duty. An effective duty of 5% ad-valorem is leviable on glass chimneys for lamps and lanterns, Flat glass attract specific rates of duty. A special excise duty of 5% of the basic excise duty is additionally leviable on all the above items.

The general duty incidence on glassware is not regarded as too high particularly when it is viewed that there are many excisable commodities which bear similar or even higher duty incidence. Moreover, in the case of many excisable commodities, a substantial duty burden is also borne at the input/intermediate stage in addition to duty leviable on the finished products, which is, however, not so in the case of glass and glassware.

(b) and (c). The rate of excise duty is uniformly applicable to all manufacturers and the duty rate will depend on the nature of the products and the process adopted by the manufacturers of such glassware. There is no special rate prescribed for manufacturers belonging to U. P. Glass Manufacturers Syndicate.

Customs Duty on Import of Mercedes-240

5082. SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Mercedes-240 imported in the country and the details of persons who imported these vehicles;

(b) the details of the invoice value/cost of these vehicles and the amount of custom duty, etc. recovered in each case;

(c) whether Custom Authorities have released these vehicles to those persons also who had pleaded that they had lost their invoices; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard ?