

etc. are being taken to narrow the trade gap.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Increase in Indo-Soviet Trade

60. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India's trade with the Soviet Union has been increasing substantially; and

(b) if so, the value of goods imported from the Soviet Union and the value of goods exported to the Soviet Union from India during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) and (b). The value of goods imported from and exported to the Soviet Union from India during the last three years is given below :

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Imports from USSR	Exports from India	Total
1982-83	1413	1670	3083
1983-84	1659	1306	2965
1984-85 (Provisional)	1803	1655	3458

There was a slight decline in India's trade turnover with the Soviet Union in 1983-84 but the trade again picked up in 1984-85.

[English]

Reduction in basic duty on import or non-forging quality billets

*61. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that vide Customs, notification No. 213/85 dated 1 July 1985, duty on import of non-forging quality billets conforming to specification IS. 2830/1975 has been reduced to 15 per cent basic duty, if it is imported through the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) of India which is the canalizing agency for import of the above stated billets; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not releasing on concessional basic (15 percent) of 2000 Metric tons of non-forging billets imported through MMTC by the J and K State small Scale Industrial Undertaking (SICOP) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) By issue of notification No. 213/85-Cus. dated the 1st July, 1985, carbon steel billets other than forging quality billets and billets for seamless steel tubes ASTM E-45, when imported for the manufacture of bars, rods or light structurals, have been exempted from basic customs duty in excess of 15% advalorem. No IS specification for non-forging quality billets has been indicated in the notification. Further, the exemption has not been restricted to imports by M. M. T. C. only.

(b) The goods imported by Jammu and Kashmir State Small Scale Industrial Undertaking through the port of Bombay have already been released under the aforesaid notification against a provisional duty bond pending test of sample.

Proposal to liberalise import of edible oil by vanaspati industry

*62. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of edible oils imported during the year 1984-85 and contemplated to be imported in the year 1985-86;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to liberalise the imports of edible oils by the vanaspati industry.

(c) if not whether there is any proposal to supply them imported oils in spite of the