

liable to be declared as defaulters disentitling them from securing import<sup>d</sup> licences and export benefits besides any action that may be taken against them under the Import-Export (Control) Act and the Orders issued thereunder.

#### Trade trend with France

10021. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the total value of trade between India and France in 1986 was higher as compared to 1987;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps being considered to improve the same during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) On the basis of the trade figures compiled by DGCI&S, Calcutta, India's trade with France during 1985-86 and 1986-87 was as follows :

	(Rs. crores)		
	1985-86	1986-87	%change
Exports	202.71	274.51	+35.4
Imports	582.59	669.44	+14.9
Total value of the trade	785.30	943.95	+20.2

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Changes in custom rules

10022. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Union

Government have decided to formulate new customs rules;

(b) if so, the main changes that are likely to be made; and

(c) to what extent these changes will be helpful to the common people ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) to (c) It is presumed that the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Customs, (Amendment) Bill, 1988 (Bill No. 38) of 1988, which has been introduced by the Government for suitably amending the provisions of section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), which provides for the valuation of the goods for the purposes of assessment of duties of customs chargeable on goods by reference to their value. This bill has been passed by the Lok Sabha on 2.5.1988 and is pending for consideration in the Rajya Sabha. Rules when framed thereunder will be laid on the Table of the House, as per the prescribed procedure.

#### Trade expansion with Australia

10023. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken to tap the trade potential between India and Australia; and

(c) the volume of bilateral trade at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Following steps, inter alia have been/are being taken to increase our trade with Australia :

(i) Exchange of trade delegations in identified sectors;

(ii) Participation in trade fairs/exhibitions;

(iii) Meetings of Joint Business