

liable to be declared as defaulters disentitling them from securing import^d 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

Council, Joint Trade Committee, etc.

(b) As per the provisional data received from DGCI&S, Calcutta, trade between India and Australia during 1986-87 was Rs. 578.31 crores. During 1987-88 (April-December), the volume of bilateral trade was Rs. 468.34 crores as compared to Rs. 422.37 crores during the corresponding period of last year.

Irregularities in Tobacco Auctions

10024. SHRI V SOBHANADRFESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that during the tobacco auctions this year, at some auction platforms, some employees of the Tobacco Board have deliberately under weighed the bales causing considerable loss to growers;

(b) if so, the factual position thereof; and

(c) The action being taken to fix the responsibility and obviate such complaints in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Allegations of under-weighment of tobacco bales at some auction platforms have been received by the Tobacco Board.

(b) The matter has been investigated by the Tobacco Board. Differences in weights of bales were found to be due to mechanical defects of the weighing scales. After the defects were noticed all the bales so'd were reweighed and weights rectified on the same day.

(c) The allegation of deliberate under-weighment of bales has not been established. The Tobacco Board has taken steps to check the weighing scales everyday at each of the auction platforms before commencing weighment and intermitant checks to obviate such complaints in future.

Additional assistance sought for Irrigation products by Andhra Pradesh

10025. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested Union Government to provide additional financial assistance for early completion of major, medium and minor irrigation projects in the state ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the action taken in this regard and the time by which necessary funds will be made available to the state ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (c) In connection with the Special Foodgrains Production Programme for attainment of foodgrains production target envisaged in the Seventh Plan, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had initially indicated a requirement of about Rs. 98 crores for accelerating work on certain projects. It has been clarified to the State representatives that such a large additional outlay would not be available under this programme.

Irrigation projects under CAD programme of Orissa

10026. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the irrigation projects in Orissa which are included under the Command Area Development Programme (CAD) ;

(b) the amount of Central assistance provided during the Seventh Five Year Plan period for the execution of these projects; and

(c) the progress made in the completion of these projects so far ?