

1988;

(b) if so, whether steps have been taken to see that such switch trade does not flourish at our cost;

(c) whether Hong Kong traders have offered to provide Chinese orders for Indian goods; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (d). It is a fact that a significant share of China's trade is conducted through Hong Kong. There are a number of trading organisations, particularly run by overseas Chinese which have been trading with China for many years and have established themselves in China's overseas trade. This is true not only with regard to Indian goods but China's trade with other countries as well. It appears that Commerce Secretary's general remark in this regard has been taken to relate specifically to Indian goods only, which is not correct.

Any sovereign country is free to decide its methods for conducting trade depending upon its assessment of the comparative advantages to be gained therefrom. While

we are making efforts to promote direct trade with China, we cannot insist upon China or any other country, that it must buy directly from India. Import of Indian goods through a third country cannot per se be objectionable since it results in gaining market access, which may otherwise be difficult, and consequent increase in our exports.

Export of Cashew Kernels

2722. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and volume of export of cashew kernels during 1986-87 and 1987-88;

(b) whether the export is showing downward trend;

(c) the export target set by the Export Promotion Council for 1988-89; and

(d) the steps taken by Government and the Council for meeting the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Exports of cashew kernels from India in the last two years have been as follows:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Qty (Mts)</i>	<i>Val: (Rs. crores)</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
1986-87*	41759	334.10
1987-88*	36937	322.7
		(*Provisional)

(b) Exports of cashew kernels during 1987-88 showed a marginal fall as against the record export during 1986-87.

(c) An export target of Rs. 300 crores has been set for export of cashew kernels (incl. CNSL). However, the international market for cashew has been fluctuating and

the prices are yet to stabilise.

(d) To step up export of cashew, Government has been granting CCS @ 8% on export of cashew kernels in consumer packs of 1 kg. or less. Import replenishment @ 10% on exports of cashew kernels is also being granted. Besides this the cashew

Export Promotion Council, undertakes export promotional measures by way of sending trade delegations and participation in fairs and exhibitions abroad.

Import of Foreign Cars

2723. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of the foreign cars into India has been liberalised;

(b) if so, the number of foreign cars imported during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the brief particulars of existing policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Details of number of Customs Clearance Permits issued during last three years for import of cars is given below:

Year	No. of CCPs issued
1	2
1985-86	1758
1986-87	988
1987-88	662

(c) Import of cars and vehicles is allowed to certain specified categories of importers. Details are given in Chapter XI of the Import and Export Policy, April, 1988-March, 1991 (Vol.I), copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. In the case of non-resident Indians while the policy remains the same the condition relating to the no-sale period in respect of cars imported by them, has been dispensed with.

Trade with 'Group of 77'

2724. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of India's export and import from the 'Group of 77' countries in absolute terms as well as percentage of total export/import during the last three years for which the figures are available year-wise;

(b) the incentives provided by Government for trade with the 'Group of 77' countries; and

(c) the proposals under consideration for increasing our trade with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Information is given in the Statement below.

(b) and (c). There are a few exclusive trade preference arrangements among developing countries of which India is a member. Under these, tariff preferences are available for our trade with some of the countries of Group '77'. Recently forty-eight countries member of Group '77' including India exchanged tariff concessions under Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) among developing countries. The tariff concessions under GSTP would be implemented after the countries concerned have ratified the GSTP Agreement and the Agreement has come into force. Apart from these, there are no special incentives for trade with countries of Group '77' nor any proposals under consideration in this regard. However, various trade promotion measures such as exchange of business delegations, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, encouragement to trading houses etc. for opening offices abroad, market research, joint ventures, cooperation among trade enterprises etc. are utilised in our efforts to promote trade with countries of Group 77'