

Reimbursement of custom and other Duties on imported Polyester and Nylon Filament Yarn

1756. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to reimburse all customs and other duties imposed on polyester and nylon filament yarn imported under replenishment licence against exports effected between June 19, 1978 and April 11, 1985;

(b) if so, how much this concession will cost to the exchequer;

(c) what the necessity of this double concession despite cash compensatory allowance being paid to the exporters;

(d) whether this will also give a substantial windfall profit to those who have utilised import licences of this period and will utilize that now; and

(e) if so, the reason for giving them opportunity at public cost ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA PCOJARY) : In terms of Notification NO. 120/78-Cus dated 19.6.78 and Notification No. 121/78 dated 19.6.78, nylon and polyester filament yarn were exempted from basic customs duty and auxiliary duty when imported under an REP licence issued against export of specified products. But the same were subject to countervailing duty. Drawback on countervailing duty was permissible on the inputs used in the manufacture of finished export products. On the recommendation of the Ministry of Commerce, it was decided to permit import of these items free of basic customs duty, auxiliary duty and countervailing duty under REP licences issued for exports of specified products. Accordingly, Notification No. 126/85-Cus and Notification No. 127/85-Cus both dated 12.4.85 were issued. The intention was to exempt import duties on these items at one stage with the issue of the notification dated 12.4.85, the earlier notification dated 19.6.78 became otiose and the same was rescinded.

It was, however, subsequently ascertained from the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports that many applications were pending for issue of REP licences for import of nylon and polyester filament yarn for the Exports of specified production exported during 19.6.78 to 11.4.85. In view of this further Notification No. 198/85 and 199/85, both dated 17.6.85 were issued for permitting import of these items without payment of basic and auxiliary duty against REP licences provided that export of finished products were made between 19.6.78 and 11.4.85. This notification in effect restored the exemptions in respect of basic customs duty and auxiliary duty existing prior to 12.4.85;

(b) there will be no extra cost because the notification only restored the exemption of basic customs and auxiliary duties available under the notification dated 19.6.78;

(c) the scheme of cash compensatory allowance is exclusive of custom duties and hence does not compensate for those duties. Therefore, the question of double concession to the trade does not arise;

(d) and (e) No Sir, because the notification dated 17.6.85 only restores the exemption from basic customs duty and auxiliary duty which were available under the earlier notification dated 19.6.78.

Shortage of coking Coal

1757. SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is acute shortage of coking coal in recent months;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to make supply easy and reduce the price also ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c) The steel plants which are the main consumers of coking coal had

5.30 lakh tonnes of coking coal in stock as on 1.7.1985. There is, however, a gap between the total availability of coking coal in the country vis-a-vis the demand. This gap is being met through imports. To meet the increased coking coal demand, a higher priority has been given to the development and reconstruction of Jharia coalfield.

**Check on smuggling on Indo-Nepal
Border**

1758. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken certain stringent measures to check smuggling on Indo-Nepal border;

(b) if so, whether Government have succeeded in checking the smuggling;

(c) if so, the value of goods seized during this period and the extent of increase therein as compared with the last year; and

(d) the names of goods which are being smuggled on this border on large scale ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As a result of the intensified drive to check smuggling, contraband goods valued at Rs. 1.58 crores were seized and 124 persons arrested in connection with smuggling activities during the year 1985 (upto June) as against Rs. 91.48 lakhs worth of goods seized and 57 persons arrested during January to June, 1984. (Figures are provisional).

(d) Gold, electronic goods, synthetic fabrics and yarn and Nepali Ganja are the main commodities sensitive to smuggling into the country from Nepal, whereas goat skin, woollen yarn and petroleum products are the main commodities sensitive to smuggling out of the country.

**Opening of new Mines by ECL in
West Bengal**

1759. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a meeting was held on 5 November, 1982 in connection with opening of new mines in the State of West Bengal by the Eastern Coalfields Limited in which the Chief Minister of West Bengal, the Coal Secretary, an E.C.L. representative and representatives of various trade Unions participated;

(b) if so, the salient points of the discussion held in at the said meeting;

(c) the details of the decisions taken in that meeting;

(d) whether it is being implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question of giving employment to local youth in certain new mines which were proposed to be opened by ECL in West Bengal was discussed in the meeting.

(c) to (e) It was decided that in accordance with the formula evolved in 1980, 30% of the jobs in the proposed new mines would be filled by new recruits, the balance being filled by re-deployment of surplus manpower already available with ECL. An Officers' Committee was appointed to examine the problem on this basis. However, eventually it was decided on *ad-hoc* basis to offer employment to 600 local youth through employment exchanges in addition to the land losers to be employed in accordance with norms. The employment was to be given as work progressed in the mines. The decision is being implemented by ECL. 177 persons have already been employed. The delay in further employment has been caused by Court injunctions and delay in obtaining the names of candidates from employment exchanges.