

(ii) be recommended by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission for excise duty concession as a bonafide cottage unit.

Sale price of match boxes by mechanised and non-mechanised match sectors

5644. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with Rs. 4.50 excise duty per gross the non-mechanised middle sector of match industry is selling the match box at 20 paise each;

(b) whether it is also a fact that with Rs. 7.20 excise duty per gross the mechanised sector match industry is selling match box at 18 paise each; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to level the excise duty to be in consonance with the sale price of match box?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Sir, there is no uniformity in the retail selling price of matches produced in the non-mechanised middle sector of the match industry. The selling price varies from brand to brand and in many cases it is less than 20 paise per match box.

(b) The recommended retail price of the matches produced by the mechanised sector is not 18 paise per box for all its brands.

(c) At present there is no proposal under Government's consideration to link the rate of excise duty to the sale price of match boxes.

Expansion of trade with China

5645. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to further expand trade with China;

(b) if so, whether any study has since been made about the export potential in China;

(c) whether the possible import items from China have since been identified;

(d) what other specific steps have since been taken; and

(e) the present volume of trade between the two countries and anticipated volume for the next year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Yes, Sir. Some initial studies were conducted by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and the Trade Development Authority.

(c) Some of the import items from China have been identified. These are: zinc, mercury, antimony, tin, sulphur, newsprint, raw silk, cement, coking coal, oil, tetracycline and streptomycin.

(d) Delegations are being exchanged to explore the possibilities of expansion of trade between India and China.

(e) The volume of trade between the two countries during 1978-79 was of the order of Rs. 27.60 crores. Increased contacts through exchange of delegations may lead to an improvement in trade possibilities.

Separate Air Strips for Aircraft with Private Sector Companies

5646. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many private sector companies have their own executive aircraft and what are the names of such companies;