

with the IMF is intended to support the medium terms structural adjustment programme which is an integral part of the Sixth Five Year Plan : it is not related to imports of specific items.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Import Duty on Edible Oils

6513. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that there is 150 per cent import duty on import of edible oil imported by private importers ;

(b) is it also a fact that there is a total ban on import of edible oil by private importers; and

(c) are Government aware that this superfluous duty is affecting market trends and encouraging speculators for sheer calculation values?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The existing rates of Customs duty on edible oils are as follows:—

	Basic Duty	Aux. Duty
(i) Fixed vegetable oils, fluid or solid, crude, refined or purified, but excluding rapeseed oil and soyabean oil	125%	30%
(ii) Rapeseed oil and Soyabean oil	45%	15%

(b) In the import policy for 1981-82, there was a limited provision for import of palm oil and coconut oil as replenishment against exports. The policy for 1982-83 has not so far been announced.

(c) Government have no such information.

Discussion with World Bank President for I. D.A. Loan

6514. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minister had a discussion with the President of the World Bank Mr. Clausens for an IDA loan of four billion dollars : and

(b) what is the result of the discussion and what are the conditions laid down by the World Bank for this loan ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b). A World Bank team led by Mr. A. W. Clausen, President visited India from January 18 to January 23, 1982. Discussions with the team covered the general situation of IDA commitments in the next two years, particularly with reference to India's share based on the allocation criteria of the World Bank, but there was no discussion regarding an IDA loan of \$ 4 billion.

Indo-France Collaboration in field of Defence Equipment

6515. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA : SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and France have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for wide ranging collaboration in the field of defence equipment and its manufacture in this country ;

(b) if so, whether any final decision has so far been taken in the matter ;