

Revision of Trade Policy for Light Commercial Vehicles

5223. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the manufacturers of light commercial vehicles with Japanese Technology are passing through grave crisis;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to revise the trade policy in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). The performance of Indian manufacturers light commercial vehicles with Japanese collaborations as been adversely affected by various factors, important amongst them being steep appreciation in the value of Japanese Yen since 1986, low volumes of output of these units and the rise in prices of raw materials such as steel, increase in cost of imported inputs on account of readjustment of the Rupee exchange rate and import compression measures adopted in view of the adverse balance of payment position.

(c) and (d). Review of Import Export Policy is a continuous process and necessary corrective measures are taken as and when the situation so warrants.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme in STC

5224. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officials of the State Trading Corporation who have quit their job

under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme so far;

(b) the number of such official who want to quit the organisation under this scheme; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) 170 employees of State Trading Corporation have so far retired under STC Voluntary Retirement Scheme, 1989.

(b) Another 415 employees who have applied for retirement under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme would retire on 31.8.91 as their requests for retirement have already been accepted by the Management.

(c) The scheme is voluntary and the employees opted for voluntary retirement.

Repair to Goa-Bombay National Highway

5225. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Goa-Bombay National Highway passing through Mahad is damaged by rains every year; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the repair work is initiated well in time and the road remains traffic worthy for a long time after the repairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). No, Sir. There is no recurrence of any serious damage on the portion of Bombay-Goa National Highway No. 17 passing through

Mahad Town every year. However, damages of minor nature due to rains are not uncommon. These are attended to as and when noticed to keep the road in traffic worthy condition.

[*Translation*]

Production of Films by Armed Forces Films and Photo Division

5226. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of films produced by the Armed Forces Film and Photo Division last year;

(b) whether films on the celebrations of 26th January and 15th August are also produced by the said division;

(c) whether the work of producing classified films is also assigned to the above Division of the Ministry;

(d) whether C.B.I. had conducted any enquiry into the affairs of the said Division some time back; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (c). As against an annual target of 15 reels of defence training films, in the year 1990-91, the AFFPD had produced 28 reels of training films including 12 reels, dubbed in Hindi. Classified Training films are produced only by the AFFPD.

(c) Films on these functions are not produced by the Division. However, video coverage has been provided in the last few years, for internal record purposes.

(d) C.B.I. had conducted as surprise check of the office premises of the division in January, 1990.

(e) It has been decided to initiate disciplinary proceedings against certain officials of this Division, for certain procedural irregularities brought out by the CBI and against one official for undertaking private work and accepting payment for it.

Expenditure By Ministers

5227. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken by the government to curtail expenditures;

(b) whether these measures are also applicable to the Union Ministers and Prime Minister; and

(c) the details of the expenditure incurred by each Minister since December, 1989 till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) and (b). Various measures have been taken by the Government to curtail expenditure on items like gasoline, telephone, electricity, travel, holding of seminars/conferences, entertainment, purchase of new vehicles, etc. Separate instructions also exist for Ministers for restricting expenditure on furniture, furnishing of office and office portion of the residence, official/residential telephone with STD facility, etc.

(c) Information is not centrally maintained and will have to be collected from all Ministries/Departments. The time and labour involved in collecting the information may not commensurate with the results to be achieved.