

Title: Need to withdraw the Notification dated 9th November, 2004 extending the date of exemption of excise duty in Kutch district of Gujarat up to 31st December, 2005.

SHRIAMITAVA NANDY (DUMDUM): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, contrary to the assurances given in this House by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance in his replies to Unstarred Question No. 3434 dated 20th August, 2004, a Notification has been issued by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue on 9th November, 2004 vide No. 55/2004 – Central Excise, extending the date of exemption of excise duty in Kutch district of Gujarat up to 31st Decemebr, 2005. Since this has definitely defeated the very purpose of the exemption and I apprehend, especially in the case of iron and steel in the core sector, will put the producers of the entire country and West Bengal in particular to face uneven competition of carrying on the burden of 16 per cent excise duty, I demand either withdrawal of the Notification dated 9th November, 2004 or extension of the same benefit of excise duty exemption all over the country.