

tion of tax laws and speedy reforms to usher in uniformity in the matter of classification of excusable goods and other procedural issues;

(b) whether Government have examined those suggestions; and

(c) if so how far these suggestions have been implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c). Simplification of tax laws and speedy reforms to usher in uniformity in the matter of classification of excusable goods and other procedural issues is a continuous process. Various Associations and Federations of Chambers of Commerce and Industry make suggestions from time to time in this regard. The Government keep in view all such suggestions while framing/reviewing its policies and evolving/simplifying procedures.

Joint Venture with Australia

10414. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by Government to establish joint ventures with Australia;

(b) whether any Memorandum of understanding had been signed with that country in 1989-90 for expansion of trade;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the plan of Government with regard to the expansion of Indo-Australian trade in 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). It was agreed at the first meeting of the Indo-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission in July, 1989 that both sides will strive for doubling trade turnover to 1.2 bn. dollars by 1992 between the two countries.

(d) A Statement is given below:

STATEMENT

The following steps inter-alia have been/are being taken to promote trade between India and Australia.

- (i) Increasing contacts between Indian and Australian businessmen through the forum of regular meetings of the India-Australia Joint Business Council.
- (ii) Holding of annual trade talks through established mechanism of Joint Trade committee (JTC).
- (iii) Holding of meeting of the Joint Ministerial Commission with Australia.
- (iv) Increased participation in international exhibitions held in Australia.
- (v) Holding of exclusive displays of Indian products in Australia through the assistance of Market Advisory Service of Australian Government.
- (vi) Holding of Buyer-Seller Meets in Australia
- (vii) Exchange of Trade Delegations between the two countries.

Criteria for selection of Press Persons for Accompanying P.M. During his Tours

10415. SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state: