

[English]

### Exemption of Cess in Spices

1670. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to continue the exemption of cess on spices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER of COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Cess on exports of spice oils, oleoresins and saffron already stands exempted upto 30.9.95. Exemption in the case of pepper (except green pepper in brine) is presently available upto 31.12.1994. A proposal to further extend the exemption of cess on pepper exports is under consideration of Government.

12.00 hrs.

RE: LAYING ON THE TABLE OF GYAN PRAKASH COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON IMPORT OF SUGAR

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): What about the Report, Sir?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roseria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what happened to sugar scam? What happened, Shukla Ji?

MR. SPEAKER: Sharad Yadav Ji.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am calling Shri Sharad Yadav.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to raise it. We had a meeting.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Let him announce that. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): I would simply like to know the stand of the Government over the deadlock on the Gyan Prakash Committee report for the last three days. The House should be apprised about it. I wish that the Government resolve this deadlock so that the rest of the pending issues can be discussed. So, will the Government make a statement on this issue today and fulfil our demand?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): Sir, we had discussions about this matter in your chamber, and we are ready to place five copies of this Report in the Library of Parliament for the Members who wish to peruse the Report and look at it. Sir, I would like to make a request to you to treat it as a one time exception and not to treat it as a precedence for the future. Kindly make this clear for the future so that this kind of difficulty does not arise from time to time before us. With this request, I would say

that during the course of the day we shall prepare the copies and put them today itself in the Library of Parliament for the benefit of such Members who would like to go and have a look at it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, will it be only for the Members or for the Press and other people also? Will you please explain, because, you have said something in the other House.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: I have discussed this matter with the Chairman also. The Library has its own rules and according to the rules the entire thing will be treated. In accordance with your directions also this will be handled.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Sir, I do not know precisely what is the nature of a document which is kept on the Table of the House and its distinction from a document which is kept in the Library. We should be clear about it because, in the past it is only in relation to documents which are otherwise secret, confidential, and whose being made public is against public interest, where this kind of a device has been availed of that we do not want to conceal it from the Members of the House, but we would not like it to go to the people because it would not be in public interest, it would affect national security etc. In this case I do not see why this document cannot be placed on the Table of the House. But, if the Leaders have agreed, I stand by it. I would like to understand what are the implications precisely. Can I quote from that Report or can I not?

MR. SPEAKER: While speaking in the House.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: We can quote from the Report.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Then, what is the embargo on me or Members of the House so far as the use of the document is concerned?

This should be clarified. That is all. Otherwise I would like to tell the Government that this is unnecessary; needless. There is no rule which would obligate us to force to do it. But when you have agreed why not be more open why not be frank?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): I have a small additional point. We have all agreed that it will be placed in the Library because it was a demand which came from the entire collectivity of the hon. Members. You know, ordinarily the procedure is that any document or any Report or any paper is first laid on the Table of the House and then certain number of copies of that particular document or Report or paper reach the Library. In this particular case, the procedure is being reversed because there are exceptional circumstances. The reversal of the procedure that it is being placed in the Library not on the Table of the House is in itself a precedent. Therefore, whatever has been now decided about the use of this document, reference to this document and access to this document, Sir, it would be my appeal to you that when you give such directions, the aspect of it must be borne in mind.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now you said one thing in reply to a question of Advaniji.... (Interruptions) you said just now that you can quote from that report in the debate here. A debate is to be held on it. If it is to be quoted in the debate, then I shall have to sit in the library with a peice of paper and a pencil to write down the quotable portions thereof. If I can write down ten pages, I can get its photostate copy in five minutes. I am saying this because it seems from the atmosphere created here on the report that objection will be raised on getting its photocopy also.

[English]

What is the problem between laying a piece of paper or getting whole document photostate?

[Translation]

If obtaining the photocopy is possible, then what is the problem in making us available photocopies by today evening? Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will excuse me, everthing is being dramatised here, it makes no sense.... (Interruptions). I seek your help in it.

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you a reply.

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHARY: Sir, we had not agreed with suggestion to place the Report in your Chamber only because it will not be made public. We demanded that it should be placed in the Library. We also wanted to know what is the import of placing the Report in the Library. I believe, as has been done in all other cases in the past, this Report is being placed in the Library with all its fullest connotations.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know why only five copies of it have been placed?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I appreciate the hand of cooperation extended by the Leaders of the Parties in my Chamber when they agreed that this Report may be placed in the Library and the business of the House should be continued.

As to what is the meaning of placing this Report in the Library, I shall have to look into it and only after looking into it I can give my ruling on the exact point.

But as far as the connotation of putting that Report on the Table of the House is concerned, I would like to say that it immediately becomes a public document. In fact a question is being asked why this kind of a procedure is being followed. The Government has to work and when the Government has to work, they have to consult the Officers and the Officers have to give their views to the Government.

Every time if one view given by one officer is given publicity, the other officers object to it. Instead of making the things clear to the people at large sometimes confusion can be created. In order to avoid this kind of a confusion

the rule which has been followed up to this time is that the administrative matters are not placed on the table of the House. The notings on the file are not placed on the Table of the House. The letters which are exchanged between the Central Government and the State Governments are not placed on the Table of the House. This is to see that the administration is facilitated.

In this case probably the Government wanted to follow this rule but the hon. Members wanted that they should be facilitated to argue their points of view in the light of the Report which has been given and the Report should be with them. The Government had agreed to show to the leader in the first instance and then to all the Members and then they agreed to keep it in the Speaker's Chamber. Later on it was insisted that it should be placed in the library. I think an attempt is being made to facilitate a discussion on this point. At the same time to see that the salutory principles are followed in keeping the notes in the files of the Government secret and not disclosed without giving an opportunity to the people to read only a portion of it is not correct. Probably that is the intention. I think, when the Members, in my Chamber agreed that this should be kept in the library, they understood whatever the connotation was

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: You have asked for five copies, more copies should be made.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think as far as the number of copies is concerned, it can be a few more or less. There is no problem; it can be done. The intention is to facilitate; the intention is not to hide; the intention is to allow you to discuss in the manner in which you want to discuss. I think this should end here and I would request the hon. Members to facilitate in completing the business on the agenda so that the important issues can be discussed. Shri Chandrajœt Yadav was insisting that the economic policy should be taken up for consideration; it should be taken up. Now, there is an agricultural policy on the agenda which should be discussed. There is a draft Paper on Culture to discuss. I must say that Geetaji has been asking for discussion for the last so many months, not months, but for so many years that the women's position in India should be discussed. I think it should be discussed. But these matters could be discussed only when we attach importance to the matters which are not on the agenda. Unless this policy is followed by all the Members and unless they cooperate in this matter it would become difficult for the Parliament to discuss the important matters and I really urge upon you to cooperate in this fashion.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have not clarified one point. I had asked you...

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask what you want.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I want to ask whether I can note it down after I read it in the library and quote from it in the debate.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, why not? I am not going to answer these questions like this and you will follow the rules and regulations. I cannot just give you the replies without going through the rules.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I will borrow a copy and get it photostated.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not saying yes or no to it.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I will follow the rules.

MR. SPEAKER: You can follow the rules. You can take the responsibility for whatever you do.

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling): Sir, normally all documents placed in the library are accessible to the Press. I would like to know whether the Press would have access to it or not.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not an encyclopaedia of all the decisions. I have to go through it and then give the ruling. Rules will follow and you will get the answer from the appropriate authorities...(Interruption)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, we want to obtain an information....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have established the precedent of asking questions from the Speaker.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I only want that the Government should clarify why there is a news everyday that the hon. Minister is going to tender his resignation. Because the session is on and the people are keen to know as to what is going to happen, everyday there is a news that one Minister is going to tender his resignation.... (Interruptions) You have resolved this deadlock but we would like to know as to whether there is any solution to stop these rumors about resignations by the Ministers?

MR. SPEAKER: If you are asking me, I can say that I have not received resignation from anyone.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Through you, I want to know that....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

[English]

Let us go to the agenda now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We have taken a lot of time to discuss unlisted business. Please attach importance to the items on the agenda. At least, for once, let us go directly to the items on the agenda. Later on, let us take up important policies also.

12.20 hrs.

[English]

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Reviews on the Working of and Annual Reports of India Trade Promotion Organisation for 1993-94, Indian Institute of Packaging for 1992-93 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): On behalf of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the India Trade Promotion Organisation, New Delhi for the year 1993-94.

(ii) Annual Report of the India Trade Promotion Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6650/94]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Packaging, Bombay, for the year 1992-93 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Packaging, Bombay, for the year 1992-93.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6651/94]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Engineering Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1993-94 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Engineering Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1993-94.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6652/94]

(5) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the State Trading Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Commerce for the year 1994-95.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6653/94]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Projects and Equipment Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Commerce for the