

उसको सरल बनाने के दृष्टिकोण से वर्तमान कानून को समेकित करके उसमें संशोधन करने के लिए केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क का एक व्यापक विधेयक पेश करने का प्रस्ताव है। इस निमित्त तैयार किए गए विधेयक के प्रारूप की जांच की जा रही है।

जहां तक प्रत्यक्ष कर कानूनों का संबंध है, सरकार, अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ, उन्हें सरल बनाने के लिए उनमें संशोधन करना चाहती है। संशोधन संबंधी व्यौरों को शीघ्र ही अंतिम रूप दिया जायगा।

**China to purchase Virginia Tobacco from India**

\*178. SHRI M. RAMGOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has agreed to purchase virginia tobacco from India;

(b) whether the modalities of the deal has been finalised; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Export of tobacco is not canalised and the importing countries are free to purchase tobacco from Indian exporters of their choice. According to the information available, China has signed contracts with 9 Indian exporters for purchase of 8,990 tonnes of virginia tobacco valued at about Rs. 16 crores during 1980-81.

**Cardamom Pooling**

\*179. SHRI A. A. RAHIM:  
SHRI K. KUNHAMBU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal with Government to introduce pooled system of marketing for cardamom;

(b) if so, whether the protests from the small growers of cardamom from Kerala have been taken into consideration;

(c) the attitude of the Cardamom Board in this regard; and

(d) whether it will not adversely affect the price of Green Bold cardamom produced in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a), (b) and (d): In the context of the lower realisations for the cardamom growers in Karnataka, there have been suggestions for measures to provide remunerative prices to cardamom growers in Karnataka which include a system of pooled marketing for cardamom. The matter is being examined in all its aspects.

(c) The Cardamom Board discussed 'Pooling of Karnataka Cardamom' at its meeting held at Bangalore on 29-8-1980 when it decided to set up a sub-committee for studying the marketing system in Karnataka and to advise the Board to evolve a sound marketing strategy for Karnataka cardamom.

**Commodities taken out of the purview of the States for imposition of Sales-tax**

\*181. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) have certain commodities been taken out of the purview of the States' right to impose sales tax;

(b) if so, what are the commodities;

(c) have any States objected to this;

(d) if so, which are those States;

(e) has it been pointed out to Government that this is tantamount to curtailment of the powers of the States; and

(f) what is the legal basis for overruling the objection of the States?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA):** (a) to (c): Under Entry 54 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, States have powers to levy taxes on the sale or purchase of goods other than newspapers, subject to the provisions of Entry 92-A of List I of the said Schedule. No commodity has been taken out of the purview of the States' right to impose sales tax. However, on the recommendations of the National Development Council and with the concurrence of the State Governments sales tax levied in different States on sugar, tobacco and textiles was replaced by additional excise duty in December, 1957. The Additional Duties of excise (Goods of Special Importance) Act, 1957 provides for levy and collection of additional duties of excise on these commodities and for the distribution of net proceeds thereof among the States. The Act does not debar the States from levying sales tax on these commodities but it lays down that if during any financial year there is levied and collected in any State, a tax on the sale or purchase of these commodities under any law of that State, no sums shall be payable to that State in respect of that financial year from the net proceeds of additional excise duties unless the Central Government by special order otherwise directs. Further, in exercise of powers under Article 286(3) of the Constitution, the Parliament has declared certain goods including the three commodities mentioned above as of special importance in inter-State trade or commerce and has prescribed certain restrictions and conditions subject to which States can levy tax on the sale or purchase of such goods. All States have so far refrained from levying tax on the three commodities mentioned above on which additional excise duty is presently leviable. The present Government of West Bengal has, however, filed a suit in the Supreme Court against the Union of India challenging, among other things, the Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance) Act, 1957.

2. The Chief Ministers' Conference on sales tax held in New Delhi on the 16th and 17th September, 1980 has recommended *inter alia* that sales tax on life saving drugs listed as such by the Hathi Committee and vanaspati be replaced by additional excise duties. The States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal were opposed to this recommendation as in their opinion it would affect their revenues and place restrictions on the powers of the State Governments to levy tax. Further, the West Bengal Government expressed their dissent as the State Government had filed a suit against Union of India challenging, among other things the Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance) Act, 1957 and the matter was still pending in the Supreme Court.

#### Trade Agreements

1593. **SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUHDURY:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state number of trade agreements and the volume of trade arrived at with developed capitalist countries, socialist countries and with the developing countries during the year 1980-81 country-wise?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):** No fresh trade agreement has been concluded by India with any country during 1980-81. However, on the expiry of the trade agreement with Bangladesh, a developing country, a new trade agreement was signed in October, 1980.

The volume of trade with Bangladesh during 1980-81 is not yet available.

#### Money in Circulation

1594. **SHRI A. K. ROY:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) total money in circulation in the country at present and its increase with month-wise break up for the last two years;

(b) increase in the Gross National Product for the same period;