

First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and drug intermediates generally fall within Chapter 29 of the First Schedule. While the general statutory basic duty on items covered by these Chapters is 100% advalorem, drugs generally carry an effective basic duty of 60% advalorem, and drug intermediates 70% advalorem. Auxiliary duty at the rate of 40% advalorem and additional (countervailing) duty equal to Central Excise duty are leviable in addition. However, duty on various specified drugs and drug intermediates has been reduced in consultation with the administrative Ministry concerned and notifications issued in this respect from time to time have been laid on the Table of the House with Explanatory Memoranda setting out the reasons for such exemption. As while granting exemption on drug intermediates various factors including their alternative uses, indigenous availability, consumption-factors and actual incidence of duty are taken into account, in has not been found possible to give general exemption from customs duty to all the drug intermediates imported into the country.

Textile Export to U.S.A.

842. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

DR. A.K. PATEL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether USA has imposed curbs on imports of textiles to that country;

(b) if so, to what extent it will be detrimental to India's textile exports to USA;

(c) nature of preparations being made for formulating the Indian position with reference to MFA (Multi-Fibre Arrangement) 1986;

(d) Indian position as reflected in negotiation with other LDCs; and

(e) how much has been Indian textile exported to USA in each of the last three years and the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, a Bill has been passed in the U S. Senate on November 14, 1985 which inter-alia seeks to freeze textile imports from India and a few other countries into USA for 1985 at 1984 level and allow only an annual growth at the rate of 1 per cent instead of 6-7% as existing at present. The Bill is yet to be approved by the US President.

(c) and (d). India's stand has been formulated taking into account of our competitiveness and the views of other exporting countries. The position taken is that derogation from the normal rules of GATT inherent in the discriminatory regime of the MFA should be terminated.

(e) The value of textiles exports to USA from India during the current year and also the earlier three years is given in the following table :—

(Rs. crores)

Item	1982	1983	1984	1985 Jan.- Sept.)
Readymade Garments	138.49	225.88	291.46	285.02
Fabrics, Made-ups and Yarn of Cotton, Woolen, Synthetic and Silk.	38.10	53.53	118.83	94.75

Source : *Export Promotion Councils*

Check on Increase in Price of Silk Yarn at Varanasi

843. SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is aware that despite the assurance given by the Textile Minister that silk yarn prices will not be

allowed to increase at Varanasi, the silk Yarn prices have registered an increase of about 20 per cent; and

(b) if so, the actions being taken to keep a check on silk yarn prices in Varanasi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b). Government had received representations about increase in prices of some varieties of silk yarn at Varanasi. The Central Silk Board was therefore directed to arrange for regular supplies of silk yarn by Karnataka Silk Marketing Board to their Depot at Varanasi. In pursuance of this directives, the Board arranged to send 5 tonnes of silk yarn to Varanasi in August/September, 1985. An additional quantity of 2 tonnes has been sent to Varanasi in 1st week of November. Further, the Central Silk Board has already placed confirmed orders for import 25 tonnes of raw silk for distribution under its Price Stabilisation Scheme.

Unauthorised Purchase of Beef Tallow by Hindustan Lever Ltd.

844. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindustan Lever Limited has given any answer to the show cause notices issued to it in connection with the unauthorised purchase of beef tallow by it; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The company in their replies, has stated that it is neither a licensee nor an importer in respect of goods forming subject matter of notices and that there has been no contravention of Imports (Control) Order.

Construction of Hotel by India Tourism Development Corporation in Andhra Pradesh

845. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India

Tourism Development Corporation has a plan for construction of hotels in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Government have not extended their assistance in this regard;

(c) the details of the projects in this regard; and

(d) when each of the projects is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) ITDC has a lumpsum provision of Rs. 5 crores in its Seventh Plan for joint venture schemes. Such scheme can be worked out in Andhra Pradesh also if proposals are received from the State Government/State Tourism Development Corporation subject to satisfactory feasibility study.

(b) to (d). ITDC's proposal for setting up a joint venture hotel at Hyderabad in collaboration with Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation during the Sixth Five Year Plan was dropped in May, 1983 at the instance of the State Government.

Proposal of Indian Banks to Link "SWIFT"

846. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have cleared the proposal of the Indian Banks to link with society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) to speed up the processing of their international transactions;

(b) if so, which of the banks—Indian and foreign—have been allowed to come 'SWIFT' members;

(c) the terms and conditions regulating the linking up of the Indian and foreign banks with 'SWIFT';

(d) the role assigned to the Reserve Bank of India in monitoring and foreign banks with 'SWIFT';

(e) the precautionary measures taken