

Office of Director General of Civil Aviation made false claims of Leave Travel Concession have come to notice.

(b) Penalties varying from warning and censure to withholding of increments have been imposed on the delinquent officials after holding inquiries.

ST/SC Customs Officers sent on Foreign Postings/Deputations

1686. SHRI SOMJI-BHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) number of customs officers sent abroad on foreign postings/deputations for a period of two or more years during the last ten years and total number of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes officers among them ; and

(b) if no Scheduled Tribe/Scheduled Caste officer has been sent abroad on such postings/deputations so far, what steps have been taken by Government to ensure that the claims of deserving and bright Scheduled Tribes/Scheduled Caste officers are not ignored in the absence of reservation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE ((SHRI PAT-TABHI RAMA RAO) : (a) and (b) Services of 19 officers of the Customs and Central Excise Department were placed at the disposal of the Ministry of External Affairs, who were posted in our missions abroad for a period of two or more years during the last 10 years. None of them belong to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe community. As in the case of all postings, officers of the appropriate levels including Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe officers, are considered for such postings.

Excessive Import Duty on Dry Fruits

1687. SHRI DEEN BANDHU VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that excessive import duty on dry fruits have led to increased smuggling of the commodity ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in several countries, duty is not levied on dry fruits being nutritious to the masses ; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAT-TABHI RAMA RAO) : (a) Information available with Government does not indicate that "excessive import duty on dry fruits has led to increased smuggling of the commodity".

(b) Government have no such information.

(c) Does not arise.

Import of Animal Tallow by Vanaspati Manufacturing Plants

1688. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) how much quantity of illegal or unauthorised import of beef or pig tallow have been found during the years 1980, 1981 and 1982 ; and

(b) which Vanaspati Manufacturing plants have captive soap making units and the import of tallow by each during 1981, 1982 and 1983 ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) Enquiries are being made into the alleged legality of imports effected after 5th June 1981 when all animal tallows ceased to be on OGL.

(b) A list of vanaspati manufacturers having ownership of or close association with soap manufacturing units is enclosed as statement. Import statistics are not maintained importer-wise.

STATEMENT

WEST BENGAL

1. M/s. Rasoi Ltd., Regent House, 12, Govt. Place, East Calcutta-700 069.
2. M/s. Kusum Products Ltd., Guru Garden Reach, Calcutta.
3. M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd., 63, Garden Reach, Calcutta.
4. M/s. Tata Oil Mills Co. Ltd., Calcutta.