

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:

(a) the criteria for selection of press persons to accompany the Prime Minister during his tours in the country and outside the country; and

(b) whether consideration is given in State-wise selection of press persons accompanying the Prime Minister.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). The main criterion of selection is the best possible coverage. In foreign tours, the guiding factor of selection is to secure the best possible coverage for India's foreign policy initiatives and the Prime Minister's visits. Weightage is given to persons having experience in covering international affairs. Representation is given to regional language newspapers, to the extent possible.

#### **Posting of Husband and Wife at same Station**

10416. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any policy for posting of officers/employees of nationalised banks at the same station with their spouses employed in Central Government/State Government department; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b). In view of the instructions applicable to Govt. employees but keeping in mind the factors peculiar to the banking industry, administrative requirements of the banks and transfer norms, etc., banks have been advised to formulate a policy to post husband and wife at the same station where both of them work in the same bank or in different banks. Cases where either of the

spouses does not belong to banks are not covered under the above guidelines. Under the Officers Services Regulations, applicable to banks officers, they have all India transfer liability and due to administrative reasons, their transfers may be unavoidable and, therefore, it has not been possible to allow any blanket exemption for officers of the banks from the transfer on the ground that the other spouse belongs to the State/Central Government.

In terms of Sastry Award applicable to award staff employees, they are, normally, not transferred outside the language areas in which they are serving.

#### **Entrepreneur Development Programme Conducted by SBI**

10417. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India conducted Entrepreneur Development Programme from November 17 to December 18, 1985 for South Arcot at Neyveli;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether after successfully completing that programme some of the trainees were instructed to submit project report for securing loans;

(d) if so, their number and how many of them have been given loans; and

(e) the steps being taken to sanction loans to remaining trainees who have submitted project reports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b). State Bank of India (SBI) conducted an Entrepreneur Development Programme (EDP) from 19.11.85 to 17.12.85 at Neyveli for South Arcot District. 24 partici-