

(d) Exports are made by the units directly and Government have no information about their country-wise export plans.

Implementation of Industry-wise Wage Agreement

*280. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have issued instructions to the Steel Authority of India to implement the provision incorporated in the last Industry-wise wage agreement concluded in 1983;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that all the central trade unions have reacted against the agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b). In May 1983, Government had approved the proposal of Steel Authority of India Limited for revision of wages and other benefits to the non-executives of the steel industry. On this basis, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed on 25th May, 1983 by the National Joint Committee for the Steel Industry. The Memorandum covered issues pertaining to wages and other allowances and benefits such as educational facilities, employment of a dependent of a retiring person, leave and holidays, workmen compensation and production, productivity and industrial peace. However, Government was advised that an agreement which provided that one dependent of a retiring employee should be provided employment was violative of the Constitution. On this basis Steel Authority of India Limited was advised not to implement the clause relating to employment of dependents of retiring employees.

(c) No, Sir. The central trade unions did not react against the Agreement but they did react against the advice of Government that the clause relating to employment of dependents of retiring employees should not be implemented.

Gift Parcels from Indians Visiting Singapore and Bangkok to their Relatives and Friends in India

*281. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indians visiting Singapore, Bangkok can send gift parcels to their relatives and friends in India;

(b) if so, how many, upto what weight, value and quantity; and

(c) whether any duty is leviable thereon ?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Unsolicited gifts upto Rs. 1,250 in value (including electronic items upto Rs. 500) received for any person through post or otherwise for his personal use or for any institution or hospital for its own use is allowed without customs clearance permit under the Savings Clause 11(99) of the Imports (Control) Order, 1955. However, certain items as specified in the aforesaid Savings Clause are not allowed import as gifts.

Although there is no restriction regarding quantity, it should be reasonable and capable of being construed as for gift purposes and for trade.

As regards restriction on weight of letter mail articles/parcels, this is governed by the International Postal Convention and not by Customs law.

(c) Duty on gift parcels intended for personal use and received through post or air freight (but excluding articles falling under Heading No. 100.01 and alcoholic drinks) is chargeable at the rate of 140% in respect of all items, except drugs and medicines on which duty chargeable is 100%. However, *bonafide* gifts which comprise exclusively of food including provisions and confectionery (but not including alcoholic drinks) or medicines, which have been imported by post or as air freight and value of which does not exceed Rs. 200 are exempted from payment of duty of customs. Other *bonafide* gifts imported by post and the value of which does not exceed Rs. 200 are also exempted from the duty of customs.