

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H.M. PATEL): (a) a large number of representations has been received by the Government from Business and Trade Associations, suggesting that sales tax may be replaced by Additional Excise Duty.

(b) At present such levy of additional excise duty in lieu of sales tax is applicable only to textiles (other than silk fabrics) tobacco and sugar. The question of extending the scheme to other commodities had been considered earlier but the State Governments had opposed the proposal. The Indirect Taxation Inquiry Committee is now reviewing the structure of all the indirect taxes—Central, State and Local. The question of replacement of sales tax by additional excise duty will be considered again in consultation with the State Governments as early as possible.

Import of Japanese Car by Shri Dhirendra Brahmachari

*95. **SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:** Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shri Dhirendra Brahmachari has imported a U.S. make small executive plane and a Japanese Car;

(b) if so, whether it was done violating duty exemption conditions and other regulations of Government; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken against the persons who are responsible for that?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b). One Maule Aeroplane was imported from USA as a gift to Aparna Ashram, Mantalai, District Udampur (J & K) in July 1976 under cover of a customs clearance permit issued by the CCI&E. The aeroplane was exempted from payment of customs duty subject, *inter-alia*, to the condition that

the aeroplane will be used for transportation of the students and teachers from the plains to the Ashram and back and that the yoga training will be imparted free of any charges. In April, 1977, it was learnt that the aeroplane was being used for other purposes in violation of this condition. The aeroplane was accordingly seized on 29-4-77 by the Customs authorities at Delhi under provisions of the Customs Act, 1962, for violating the conditions of the exemption.

One Toyota Crown Car gifted by Messrs. S.M. Trading Company, Osaka, Japan to Vishwayatan Yoga Ashram, New Delhi was imported in August, 1971 on payment of duty. No exemption from customs duty was allowed on this car. As far as the import restrictions are concerned, the car was allowed clearance against a customs clearance permit issued by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports.

(c) The aeroplane has been seized by the Customs authorities at Delhi. Appropriate action will be taken after completion of the statutory requirements of show cause notice, affording opportunity to reply, personal hearing, taking of evidence etc.

Release of Smugglers detained under COFEPOSA

*96. **SHRI M. KALAYANASUNDARAM:**

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smugglers held in the wake of emergency under COFEPOSA have been released; and

(b) if so, a brief account thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b). During the period of internal emergency, 2015 smugglers and foreign