

RAJYA SABHA

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2000

(The Rajya Sabha met in the Parliament House at 11.00 a.m.)

1. Obituary References

The Chairman made references to the passing away of: —

1. Shri Gurudev Gupta (ex-Member); and
2. Shri Arun Prakash Chatterjee (ex-Member).

11-04 a.m.

2. Introduction of Ministers by the Leader of the House

Shri Jaswant Singh, Minister of External Affairs and Leader of the House introduced 4 Ministers, 1 Minister of State (Independent Charge) and 4 Ministers of State, to the House.

11-22 a.m.

3. Starred Questions

The following Starred Questions were orally answered.

Starred Question No. 22 regarding CAG's observations on loss due to switch over from licence fee system.

Starred Question No.23 regarding Concession to senior citizens by AI.

Starred Question No. 24 regarding IBA Report on VRS for Public Sector Bank employees.

Answers to remaining Starred Question Nos. 21, 25 to 40 were laid on the Table.

Answers to Starred Question Nos. 1 to 20 put down in the List of November 20, 2000 were also laid on the Table.

4. Unstarred Questions

Answers to Unstarred Question Nos.103 to 238 were laid on the Table.

Answers to Unstarred Question Nos.1 to 102 put down in the List of November 20, 2000 were also laid on the Table.

21ST NOVEMBER, 2000

12 Noon

5. Paper Laid on the Table: —

Secretary-General laid on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Hundred and Ninetieth Session of the Rajya Sabha and assented to by the President.

Shri O. Rajagopal (Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Railways) laid on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the following Ordinances under sub-clause (a) of clause (2) of article 123 of the Constitution: —

- (1) The Indian Council of World Affairs Ordinance, 2000 (No. 3 of 2000), promulgated by the President on the 1st September, 2000.
- (2) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 (No.4 of 2000), promulgated by the President on the 26th September, 2000.
- (3) The Central Road Fund Ordinance, 2000 (No. 5 of 2000), promulgated by the President on 1st November, 2000.

Shri Hukumdeo Narayan (Minister of State in the Ministry of Shipping) laid on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers under section 3 of Seamen's Provident Fund Act, 1966: —

- (a) Thirty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Organisation.

Shri EV Allas Balasaheb Vikhe Patil (Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance) laid on the Table a copy each of the following papers: -

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 along with Explanatory Memoranda thereon: —

- (1) G.S.R. 687 (E) dated 29.8.2000 publishing the Notification No. 111/2000-Customs seeking to amend Notification No. 16/2000-Customs dated 1.3.2000 so as to allow vanaspati manufacturing units not having captive hydrogen generation facility, import of crude oil and its fractions under concessional rate of duty upto 28.11.2000.

RAJYA SABHA

- (2) G.S.R. 700 (E) dated 31.8.2000 publishing the Notification No. 117/2000-Customs dated 31.8.2000 seeking to amend Notification No. 16/2000-Cuustoms dated 1.3.2000 so as to reduce basic customs duty for (i) certain specified equipments relating to telecom sector and (ii) parts used in the manufacture of electronics calculators, toys, security systems and photographic cameras as per the list given in the Notification.
- (3) G.S.R. 766 (E) dated 29.9.2000 publishing the Notification No. 126/2000-Custom dated 29.9.2000 seeking to amend Notification No. 16/2000-Customs so as to reduce the basic customs duty on crude oil to 10% and that on refined petroleum products such as HSD, Motor Spirit etc.
- (4) G.S.R. 792 (E) dated 17.10.2000 publishing the Notification No. 131/2000-Customs seeking to amend Notification No. 16/2000-Customs dated 1.3.2000 so as to clarify that the scope of concessional rate of duty is restricted to specified Amino Acids of feed grade only.

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under sub-section (2) of Section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944, along with Explanatory Memoranda thereon: —

- (1) G.S.R. 678 (E) dated 28.8.2000 publishing the Notification No. 44/2000 Central Excise amending Notification No.32/99 Central Excise dated 8.7.1999 so as to extend the scope of the exemption from excise duty to industries located in the state of Nagaland, subject to certain conditions.
- (2) G.S.R. 679 (E) dated 28.8.2000 publishing the Notification No. 45/2000 Central Excise amending the definition of 'Armed forces of the Union' so as to include Assam Rifles.
- (3) G.S.R. 680 (E) dated 28.8.2000 publishing the Notification No.46/2000 Central Excise amending Notification No. 64/95 Central Excise dated 16.3.1995 so as to re-designate the authority competent to issue certificates for the purpose of availing of excise duty exemption on goods procured for the ATV Project of Ministry of Defence.

21ST NOVEMBER, 2000

- (4) G.S.R. 686 (E) dated 29.8.2000 publishing the Notification No. 51/2000 Central Excise (NT) dated 29.8.2000 seeking to amend Central Excise Rules, 1944 with regard to Cenvat Credit Rules.
- (5) G.S.R. 703 (E) dated 1.9.2000 publishing the Notification No.47/2000 Central Excise seeking to amend Notification No.8/2000 Central Excise so as to exempt clearance of an aggregate value not exceeding rupees one hundred lakh from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon & concomitantly remove the concessional rate of duty of 5% advalorem. It also seeks to amend Notification No.9/2000 Central Excise dated 1.3.2000 so as to prescribe a concessional rate of duty of 60% of normal duty uniformly for clearance of an aggregate value not exceeding Rs. One hundred lakh.
- (6) G.S.R. 734 (E) dated 22.9.2000 publishing the Notification No. 48/2000 Central Excise seeking to amend Notification No. 6/97 Central Excise dated 1.3.1997 and 20/98 Central Excise dated 18.7.1998.
- (7) G.S.R. 764 (E) dated 29.9.2000 publishing the Notification No. 49/2000 Central Excise seeking to amend Notification No. 64/95 Central Excise dated 16.3.1995 so as to re-validate the exemption from customs duty on goods imported for SAMYUKTA Programme of the Ministry of Defence upto 30th November, 2002.
- (8) G.S.R. 767 (E) dated 29.9.2000 publishing the Notification No.50/2000 Central Excise dated 29.9. 2000 seeking to amend Notification No. 6/2000 Central Excise dated 1.3.2000 so as to reduce the basic excise duty on high speed diesel oil to 12% and that on motor spirit to 16% respectively.
- (9) G.S.R. 801 (E) dated 19.10.2000 publishing the Notification No.51/2000 Central Excise dated 19.10.2000 seeking to amend Notification No. 6/2000

Central Excise dated 1.3.2000, so as to exempt from excise duty tubular knitted gas mantle fabric, whether or not impregnated, for use in incandescent gas mantles.

RAJYA SABHA

III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under sub-section (7) of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, along with Explanatory Memoranda thereon: —

- (1) G.S.R. 667 (E) dated 18.8.2000 publishing the Notification No. 109/2000-Customs dated 18.8.2000 seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on 6 specified forms of Oxo-Alcohols, originating in or exported from Poland, South Korea, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iran, USA and European Union at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority from the date on which provisional anti dumping duty was imposed i.e. 27.1.2000
- (2) G.S.R. 681 (E) dated 28.8.2000 publishing the Notification No. 110/2000-Customs dated 28.8.2000 seeking to withdraw final anti-dumping duty on dead burnt magnesite originating in or exported from China by rescinding Notification No. 98/96-Customs dated 20.12.1996.
- (3) G.S.R. 688 (E) dated 29.8.2000 publishing the Notification No. 112/2000-Customs dated 29.8.2000 seeking to amend Notification No. 18/2000-Customs dated 1.3.2000 so as to allow vanaspati manufacturing unit not having captive hydrogen generation facility import of crude oil and its fractions and levy of SAD upto 28.11.2000.
- (4) G.S.R. 696 (E) dated 31.8.2000 publishing the Notification No 113/2000-Customs dated 31.8.2000 seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty at revised rates on Sodium Ferrocyanide originating in or exported from China.
- (5) G.S.R. 697 (E) dated 31.8.2000 publishing the Notification No. 114/2000-Customs dated 31.8.2000 seeking to rescind Notification No. 97/96-Customs dated 20.12.1996 consequent to the imposition of final anti-dumping duty at revised rates on Sodium Ferrocyanide originating in or exported from China PR.

21ST NOVEMBER, 2000

- (6) G.S.R. 698 (E) dated 31.8.2000 publishing the Notification No. 115/2000-Customs dated 31.8.2000 seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Metronidazole originating in or exported from China PR, at the rates recommended by D.A. from the date on which provisional anti-dumping duty was imposed i.e. 17.4.2000.
- (7) G.S.R. 699 (E) dated 31.8.2000 publishing the Notification No. 116/2000-Customs dated 31.8.2000 seeking to rescind Notification G.S.R. 337 (E) dated 17.4. 2000 consequent to the imposition of final anti-dumping duty on Metronidazole originating in or exported from China PR, vide Notification No. 115/2000-Customs dated 31.8.2000.

- (8) G.S.R. 722 (E) dated 15.9.2000 publishing the Notification No. 118/2000-Customs dated 15.9.2000 seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Vitamin C, originating in or exported from Russia and the European Union, at the rates recommended by D.A. from the date on which provision anti-dumping duty was imposed i.e. 16.3.2000.
- (9) G.S.R. 723 (E) dated 15.9.2000 publishing the Notification No. 119/2000-Customs dated 15.9.2000 seeking to rescind Notification G.S.R. 247 (E) dated 16.3.2000 consequent to the imposition of final anti-dumping duty on Vitamin-C, originating in or exported from Russia and the European Union vide Notification No. 118/2000 –Customs dated 15.9.2000.
- (10) G.S.R. 732 (E) dated 19.9.2000 publishing the Notification No 121/2000-Customs dated 19.9.2000 seeking to amend Notification G.S.R. 293 (E) dated 29.4.1999 so as to extend the levy of final anti-dumping duty on 3,4,5 Trimethoxy Benzaldehyde upto and inclusive of 19th March, 2001.
- (11) G.S.R. 751 (E) dated 27.9.2000 publishing the Notification No. 122/2000-Customs dated 27.9.2000 seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on Ethylene Propylene Diene Rubber (EPDM) originating in or exported from Korea RP and imported into India.

RAJYA SABHA

- (12) G.S.R. 752 (E) dated 27.9.2000 publishing the Notification No. 123/2000-Customs dated 27.9.2000 seeking to rescind Notification G.S.R. 467 (E) dated 19.5.2000 by which provisional anti-dumping duty on EPDM originating in or exported from Korea RP and imported in India was imposed consequent to the imposition of final anti-dumping duty on EPDM by Notification No. 122/2000-Customs dated 27.9.2000.
- (13) G.S.R. 762 (E) dated 29.9.2000 publishing the Notification No. 124/2000 dated 29.9.2000 seeking to amend Notification G.S.R. 289 (E) dated 23.7.1996 so as to exempt imports from Nepal from SAD leviable under Section 3A of C.T. Act.
- (14) G.S.R. 763 (E) dated 29.9.2000 publishing the Notification No. 125/2000-Customs dated 29.9.2000 seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Hydroxyl Amine Sulphate originating in or exported from USA, Japan and European Union at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.
- (15) G.S.R. 771 (E) dated 5.10.2000 publishing the Notification No. 127/2000-customs dated 5.10.2000 seeking to exempt copper cathodes, wire bars and wire rods recovered from toll smelting or toll processing abroad of copper reverts earlier exported from India from basic and additional Customs duty in excess of amount as would be leviable if the value of said copper cathods, wire bars and wire rods were equal to the toll smelting or toll processing charges and insurance and freight charges both ways.
- (16) G.S.R. 772 (E) dated 6.10.2000 publishing the Notification No. 128/2000-Customs dated 6.10.2000 seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on

Aniline, originating in or exported from Japan and the United State of America, from the date on which provisional anti- dumping duty was imposed i.e.10.4.2000.

- (17) G.S.R. 773 (E) dated 6.10.2000 publishing the Notification No. 129/2000-Customs dated 6.10.2000 seeking to rescind Notification G.S.R. 325 (E) dated 10.4.2000 consequent to the imposition of final anti-dumping duty on Aniline, originating in or exported from Japan

21ST NOVEMBER, 2000

and the United State of America, vide Notification No. 128/2000-Customs dated 6.10.2000.

- (18) G.S.R. 785 (E) dated 16.10.2000 publishing the Notification No. 130/2000-Customs seeking to reduce/modify the basic customs duty on specified varieties of fabrics, falling under Chapter 51,52,54,55, 58 and articles of apparel, falling under Chapter 61 and 62 and blankets falling under chapter 63, of the schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.
- (19) G.S.R. 793 (E) dated 17.10.2000 publishing the Notification No. 132/2000-Customs dated 17.10.2000 seeking to amend the second schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 so as to increase export duty leviable on hides, skins and leathers tanned and untanned, all sorts but not including manufactures of leather falling under Heading No. 14 of the second schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 from existing 25% to 60%.
- (20) G.S.R. 794 (E) dated 17.10.2000 publishing the Notification No. 133/2000-Customs dated 17.10.2000 seeking to provide for concessional rate of export duty on specified varieties of leather falling under Heading No. 14 of second schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.
- (21) G.S.R. 795 (E) dated 17.10.2000 publishing the Notification No. 134/2000 –Customs dated 17.10.2000 seeking to rescind existing full or partial exemption Notification on export duty on specified varieties of leather falling under heading No. 14 of the second schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.
- (22) G.S.R. 796 (E) dated 17.10.2000 publishing the Notification No. 135/2000-Customs dated 17.10.2000 seeking to omit existing entry for full exemption from export duty on specified varieties of leather falling under heading No. 14 of the second schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.
- (23) G.S.R. 797 (E) dated 18.10.2000 publishing the Notification No. 136/2000- Customs dated 18.10.2000 seeking to impose provisional

RAJYA SABHA

anti-dumping duty on Trimethoprim, originating in or exported from China.

Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran (Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance) laid on the Table a copy each of the following papers: -

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under sub-section (1) of section 25 of the Customs Act, 1962, together with explanatory memoranda on the Notifications: —

1. No. 142/2000-Customs, dated the 21st November, 2000 seeking to amend Notification No.16/2000-Customs so as to revise the concessional rate of basic duty of Customs applicable to edible oils (both crude and refined).
2. No. 144/2000-Customs, dated the 21st November, 2000 seeking to amend Notification No. 61/2000-Customs, dated the 12th May, 2000 so as to exempt specified edible oils from the levy of surcharge.

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification No. 143/2000-Customs, dated the 21st November, 2000, seeking to amend Notification No.18/2000-Customs, dated the 1st March, 2000 so as to prescribe Nil rate of Special Additional Duty on specified crude vegetable oil of edible grade., under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, together with an explanatory memorandum thereon.

12-01 p.m.

6. Leave of Absence

Shri Shankar Roy Chowdhury (West Bengal) and Shri Korambayil Ahammed Haji (Kerala) were granted leave of absence from all the sittings of the House during the current Session of the Rajya Sabha.

12-02 p.m.

7. Motion for Extension of Time for Presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999-Adopted

Shri T.N. Chaturvedi moved the following Motion: —

"That the time appointed for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999, be extended upto the first day of the last week of the second phase of the 192nd Session of the Rajya Sabha."

21ST NOVEMBER , 2000

The motion was adopted.

12-04 p.m.

8. Special Mentions

1. Dr. Dasari Narayana Rao raised a matter regarding panic caused by the spread of brain fever (Japanese Encephalitis) in epidemic form in Andhra Pradesh.

12-06 p.m.

2. Shri W. Angou Singh raised a matter regarding opening of nursing college in the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal.

12-08 p.m.

3. Shri Ramachandra Khuntia raised a matter regarding restoration and rehabilitation work in Orissa after super cyclone.

12-11 p.m.

4. Shri Eduardo Faleiro raised a matter regarding collapse of price of agricultural commodities in the country.

12-13 p.m.

5. Shri Vijay Singh Yadav raised a matter regarding insult of Hindu Gods and Goddesses in America.

12-16 p.m.

6. Prof. M. Sankaralingam raised a matter regarding slow implementation of gauge conversion and other projects in Tamil Nadu.

12-18 p.m.

7. Shri Sangh Priya Gautam raised a matter regarding demand for a train between Dehradun and Kathgodam in Uttaranchal.

12-19 p.m.

9. Government Bills - Passed

I. The Coal India (Regulation of Transfers and Validation) Bill, 1995

Shri N.T. Shanmugham (Minister of State of the Ministry of Coal) moved :-

RAJYA SABHA

"That the Bill to empower the Central Government to direct the transfer of the land, or of the rights in or over land or of the right, title and interest in relation to a coal mine, coking coal mine or coke oven plant, vested in the Coal India Limited or in a subsidiary company to any subsidiary company of Coal India Limited or any other subsidiary company and to validate certain transfers of such land or rights, be taken into consideration."

The following Members took part in the discussion: —

12-23 p.m. 1. Shri Brahmakumar Bhatt

12-30 p.m. 2. Shri Parmeshwar Kumar Agarwalla**

12-33 p.m. 3. Shri C.P. Thirunavukkarasu

12-36 p.m. 4. Shri Jibon Roy

12-43 p.m. 5. Shri R. Margabandu

12-48 p.m. 6. Shri Eduardo Faleiro

12-53 p.m. 7. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia**

(The House adjourned at 1.01 p.m. and re-assembled at 2-03 p.m.)

2.13 p.m. 8. Shri Prem Chand Gupta**

2-19 p.m.

Shri N.T. Shanmugham replied to the debate.

2-39 p.m.

The motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted.

Thereafter, clause by clause consideration of the Bill was taken up.

Clauses 2 to 4 were adopted.

Clause 1 was adopted, as amended.

The Enacting Formula was adopted, as amended.

The Title was adopted.

2-41 p.m.

The motion moved by Shri N.T. Shanmugham that the Bill, be passed was adopted and the Bill, as amended, was passed.

Spoke in Hindi. **

21ST NOVEMBER, 2000

II. The Indian Universities (Repeal) Bill, 2000

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan (Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development) moved** for the consideration of the Bill.

The motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted.

Thereafter, clause by clause consideration of the Bill was taken up.

Clause 2 was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were adopted.

2-48 p.m.

The motion moved by Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan that the Bill be passed was adopted and the Bill was passed.

2-54 p.m.

10. Statement by Minister

Shri Ram Naik, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas made a statement regarding revision in prices of petroleum products.

(The House adjourned at 3.09 p.m. till 11-00 a.m. on Wednesday, the 22nd November, 2000)

Spoke in Hindi. **