

**Items Taken out of Quantitative Restrictions**

5217. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many of the 714 tariff lines that have been taken out of the quantitative restriction include items that are reserved for the small scale industry;

(b) what is the estimated import of these items in the current years;

(c) whether these imports will hurt the interests of domestic industry; and

(d) what measures Government propose to take to help domestic industry as it faces the new competition from imports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Import restrictions on 58 tariff lines of interest to small scale sector have been removed with effect from 31.03.2000.

(b) When quantitative restrictions are removed on any tariff line it becomes freely importable on the basis of its quality and price competitiveness. It is therefore not possible to form any advance estimates.

(c) and (d) All imports in the country are subject to applicable rates of Custom duties and also subject to domestic laws, rules, orders, regulations, technical specifications, environmental and safety norms as applicable to domestically produced goods. This should provide adequate protection to the domestic industry. Further, imports are being closely monitored and Government is determined to ensure through appropriate use of the tariff mechanism that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic industry.

Government is aware of the emerging scenario for the SSI Units and has taken several steps to help them become globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technology up-gradation, infrastructure assistance through the cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure, marketing and timely information dissemination, including sensitization of small industries to the emerging challenges of trade liberalisation.