

Structural pattern of excise duty levied on match industries

1554. SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the structural pattern of excise duty levied on match industries set up in mechanised, band-made (medium scale) and hand-made (small) sectors;

(b) whether Government are aware that due to the anomaly in the levy of excise duty the hand-made (medium-scale) match industries suffer to the extent of extinction;

(c) whether Government have received representations from the owners of medium-sized match industries of Kamraj district of Tamil Nadu in this behalf;

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to help them; and

(e) whether Government have any proposal to change the structural pattern of levy of excise duty among different sectors of match industry to save such units from extinction?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The present excise duty structure on match industry is as given below:—

Sector	Basic Excise duty rate (per 100 boxes)
Mechanised	Rs. 3.15
Semi-mechanised	Rs. 2.10
Non-mechanised	Rs. 1.75
Cottage	Rs. 0.75

(b) to (e) The above duty rates have been fixed taking into account the interests of various sectors of match industry including handmade sector. The Government had received representations requesting for reduction in excise duty on matches from various sectors of match industry. These representations were

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considered and it was decided not to alter the prevailing duty rates after taking into account the interest of all the sectors of match industry.

Indigenous Production of Petroleum Products

1555. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is stagnation in the growth of indigenous production of petroleum products;

(b) if so, what are the causes for such stagnation;

(c) whether the indigenous production is keeping pace with the growth of consumption of petroleum products;

(d) whether any research has been made to find out indigenous alternative fuels; and

(e) if so, what are the details of such research programmes?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c) Even though the indigenous production of petroleum products has been going up, the demand has been growing at a comparatively higher pace. The figures for the last 3 years are given below:

(In Million tonnes)	
Petroleum products	1986-87
Indigenous products	42.76
Consumption	43.66
1987-88	1988-89
44.73	45.70
46.42	49.76

(d) and (e) Efforts to find alternative fuels for transportation project using methanol and diesel in dual fuel mode. The diesel replacement varied between 12 to 18 per cent. Another project has been sanctioned to find out technical viability under actual conditions, Demonstration programmes of battery operated