

During 1988 goods worth Rs. 0.63 crores has been exported to Sweden under this MOU. In addition goods worth Rs. 0.53 crores have also been exported by S.T.C. to Sweden.

During 1988-89 (April to Sept.) India's exports to Sweden is provisionally placed at Rs. 38.21 crores and imports at Rs. 124.85 crores compared to exports at Rs. 36.81 crores and imports at Rs. 96 crores during the same period of previous year.

No trade agreement as such has been signed at Government level during 1989.

Alleged police repression in Batala and Gurdaspur districts of Punjab

2512. SHRI GURUDAS DAS

GUPTA;

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI;

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH

AURORA;

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware that several youths have fled their homes from Batala and Gurdaspur districts of Punjab out of fear of police repression;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps are being taken to allay their fear and whether any inquiry has been made into the allegations?

THE MINISTER OR STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

West Bengal Land Reforms (Third Amendment) Bill

2513. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) when the West Bengal Govern-

ment sent the "West Bengal Land Reforms (Third Amendment)" Bill passed by the State Assembly for President's assent; and

(b) the reasons for the delay in President's assent to the Bill?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) This was sent by the State Government vide their letter dated 19-12-86.

(b) The issues arising out of the Bill have not yet been sorted out.

Confiscated Goods Lying in Customs Houses

2514. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of huge amount of confiscated smuggled goods worth lakhs of rupees, which are lying in the Customs warehouses, unsold for years and are getting out-dated thus depreciating their value due to the carelessness of the Customs officials, which will lead to great loss to the public exchequer;

(b) whether these items remained unsold because the Departmental Pricing Committees have not fixed their prices and in other cases the price tags are misplaced, often making latest items, specially electronic goods, outdated, which will fetch scrap value price; and

(c) if so, what is the value of such confiscated goods lying in the Customs Houses throughout the country till date and steps taken by the Government to speedily dispose it off and avoid pilferage over long period of time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) Confiscated goods are disposed of soon after they become ripe for disposal and there is no indication of any substantial loss having occurred due to delay in disposal. The value of goods seized,

confiscated and ripe for disposal as on 1st February, 1989 are given below:—

	Rs. Crores
(i) Stock of seized goods	326.88*
(ii) Stock of confiscated goods	141.29*
(iii) Stock of goods ripe for disposal	19.75*

*Figures are provisional.

Confiscated goods become ripe for disposal after completion of adjudication, appeal, revision proceedings etc. The procedure and modes of disposal of seized/confiscated goods have been reviewed from time to time and instructions have been issued for expediting the disposal of seized/confiscated goods. The modes/channels of disposal were increased in 1983. In 1984, confiscated goods were divided into four categories to expedite disposal of goods susceptible to deterioration or rapid obsolescence. In 1985, section 110 of the Customs Act, 1962, relating to seizures was amended to enable immediate disposal of seized goods specified by Government by Notification by filing an application before a Magistrate.

Confiscated goods are sold at the prices fixed by a Pricing Committee and the concerted efforts of the department have resulted in the disposal of confiscated goods worth Rs. 351 crores approximately during 1988, as against disposal of confiscated goods worth Rs. 149 crores approximately in 1987.

Inquiry into Manhandling of a Member of Parliament

2515. **SHRI E. BALANANDAN:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the stage of enquiry ordered into the manhandling of a Member of Parliament, Shri M. A. Baby, in the Tihar Jail;

(b) whether any report has been presented by those who made the

enquiry and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken on the basis of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) The preliminary inquiry has been completed and the report has been submitted. The competent authority has ordered disciplinary proceedings against the concerned Assistant Superintendent of the Jail under Rule 14 of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965.

Trade between India and Czechoslovakia

2516. **SHRI KAPIL VERMA:**
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SHEO KUMAR
MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the recommendations or decisions of the Indo-Czech Joint Committee for economic trade and technical cooperation at its meeting held in Delhi last month;

(b) what has been the position of bilateral trade between India and Czechoslovakia during the last five years; and

(c) whether Maruti cars are among the items proposed to be exported to Czechoslovakia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The recommendations of the 13th Session of the Indo-Czechoslovak Joint Committee for Economic Trade and Technical Cooperation held in New Delhi from February 23rd to 24th, 1989 covered extension of existing Rupee Trading Arrangement between the two countries for a further period of five years beyond 1989, further increase of India's exports of engineering items