

Exemption from Customs duty on the Car being brought to India by Shri Ravi Shastri

976. SHRI VITHALBHAJ MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to exempt Customs duty on the Audi-100 car being brought to India by Shri Ravi Shastri, which was recently presented to him in Sydney for being declared 'Champion of the Champions' in the Benson and Hedges World Cup Cricket Tournament; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) As already announced in the Union Budget presented on the 16th March, 1985, a scheme has been evolved in terms of which suitable concessions are to be given in respect of taxes due on awards won by our sportsmen in events of international significance.

Supreme Court judgement ordering closure of limestone mines in Dehradun-Mussoorie belt in U.P.

977. SHRI S. W. DHABE:

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Supreme Court's judgement delivered on the 12th March, 1985 ordering closure of limestone mines in Dehradun-Mussoorie belt in Uttar Pradesh due to environmental hazards; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to implement the judgement of the Supreme Court and amend the mining regulations and other related provisions so as to safeguard interests of citizens and maintain ecological balance in that area and also in such other affected areas?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government of U.P. have taken necessary action to implement the orders of Supreme Court for the closure of certain mines. Where removal of minerals lying at the site has been allowed by the Court, such minerals are being allowed to be removed in the presence of the committee appointed as per the orders of the Court.

The Court has ordered that immediate steps should be taken for reclamation of the areas in the limestone quarries which have been directed to be closed down, with the help of ECO Task Force of the Department of Environment and the workmen who are thrown out of employment in consequence of Court's order shall, as far as practicable, be provided employment in afforestation and soil conservation programme to be taken up in this area. The Eco Task Force of the Department of Environment operating in Shahajahanpur Block, Dehradun, is being moved to Mussoorie slopes for reclamation purposes immediately. The Department of Environment have taken up with the Government of Uttar Pradesh the matter of providing employment to such workers.

The Court has also ordered that the lessees who are displaced as a result of closure of quarries as directed by the Court, should be given priority in the grant of leases for limestone and dolomite quarrying, whenever any other area in U. P. is thrown open for grant of lease for limestone and dolomite quarrying. This has been noted.

Whole-sale price index

978. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the average wholesale price index and average All India working class consumer price index for each year since 1981; and

(b) what is the percentage rise indicating the figures for the latest month?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The requisite data on the movement of wholesale price Index and Consumer price