

(iv) re-cycling of wooden boxes already in use.

Duty Free Cars

2144. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR:
SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO
DHABE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various foreign missions in India are having duty free cars more than the number of diplomats entitled to use CD plate number cars, as reported in the "Indian Express" on 23rd May, 1983;

(b) if so, the names of the missions which are having the CD number of cars, and the number of diplomats in each mission entitled to use these cars;

(c) the numbers of cars misused in each mission and the details of action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the estimated loss suffered by India in non-payment of duty on imported cars and rebate given on petrol to these cars during the last three years, year-wise, mission-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir. Diplomatic Missions are permitted under Article 36 of the Vienna Convention, to import free of duty vehicles for their official use as well as for the official and personal use of the diplomatic staff. The number of cars in some missions is higher than the number of their diplomatic personnel since missions are entitled to make available staff cars to their non-diplomatic staff for the performance of their duties. Diplomatic Missions and their entitled personnel are also authorised the facility of excise-duty free petrol, provided a similar facility is extended to the Indian mission in the country concerned.

(b) Information as desired is given in the attached statement. [See Appendix CXXVII, Annexure No. 62.]

(c) No such instances have come to Government's notice.

(d) The question of any loss of revenue does not arise since the facilities in question flow out of our treaty obligations and also because similar facilities are being availed of by Indian missions abroad.

Encroachments in reserved forest areas of north and middle Andaman Islands

2145. SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO
DHABE:

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale encroachments in reserve forest areas of North and Middle Andaman involving destruction of trees worth crores of rupees;

(b) the steps Government have taken to stop encroachments in reserve forest; and

(c) the estimated damage to the timber in the above reserve forest areas during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Reports of encroachment in the Reserve forest areas have come to the notice of Government.

(b) An anti-encroachment squad involving Revenue, Police and Forest Department is functioning since August, 1982 for prevention of encroachment and detection of offence cases under the Indian Forest Act for eventual trial in the court. A comprehensive survey of encroachment in forest and revenue land has been started recently. A Task Force has been set up in the Ministry of Agriculture to look into the question of encroachment of Forest Land.