

tax with effect from 1st March, 1979 and the Government of Uttar Pradesh is considering the question of repealing Vrihat Jotkar Adhinyam, 1963 in view of decline in revenues attributable mainly to introduction of land ceiling acts.

Trade pact with Sri Lanka

1812. SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any trade arrangements were discussed between India and Sri Lanka during the last visit of the President of Sri Lanka;

(b) whether any trade pact has been signed in the light thereof and if so, the terms of the agreement; and

(c) the details of the items in respect of which the imports and exports are sought to be increased between the two countries indicating the contemplated increases under the new arrangement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

Statement

During the last visit of the President of Sri Lanka to India it was, inter-alia, agreed that the two Governments would exchange delegations at the Ministerial level to work out methods to increase trade flows and to stimulate India's investment in joint ventures in Sri Lanka. Consequently, discussions were held in New Delhi in December, 1978 between the Minister for Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation of the Republic of India and the Minister for Trade and Shipping of the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on matters relating to trade and cooperation between the two countries. At these discussions some

of the important decisions taken with regard to trade and joint ventures between the two countries were as follows: —

(1) Additional tariff preferences to the following commodities which were of export interest to Sri Lanka were agreed upon:

- (a) Cocoa Beans;
- (b) Cloves;
- (c) Nutmeg and Mace;
- (d) Glycerine;
- (e) Natural Graphite;
- (f) Natural Rubber; and (g) Cinnamonleaf Oil.

Sri Lanka agreed to actively consider providing tariff concessions to India on the following items and convey their decision to the Government of India, shortly: —

- (a) Automobile Ancillaries;
- (b) Storage Batteries; and
- (c) Battery accumulators.

(2) India agreed to permit the import from Sri Lanka of crockery, handicrafts and passion fruit juice upto limits to be specified.

(3) India also agreed to facilitate the import from Sri Lanka of automobile tyres and tubes up to specified limits.

(4) India agreed to attach priority to clearing joint venture proposals for Sri Lanka. It was also agreed that India would consider buy back arrangements for Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Ventures based in Sri Lanka concerned with the manufacture of the following industrial products: —

- (i) Cement;
- (ii) Pharmaceutical Formulations based on imports of bulk drugs from India;
- (iii) Block Rubber; (iv) PVC/Rubber belting; (v) Graphite Crucibles of higher sizes;

- (vi) Phosphoric Acid; and
(vii) Aluminium.

It was also agreed that the Government of India shall consider providing a tariff concessions upto a maximum of 50 per cent of the MFN rate of import duty to manufactured articles of Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Ventures based in Sri Lanka which contain not less than 80 per cent of Sri Lankan materials or Sri Lankan and Indian materials.

(5) India and Sri Lanka also agreed to consider the establishment of Joint Venture Cashew Plantation in Sri Lanka. India agreed to consider buy back arrangement for the raw cashew.

It is expected that these decisions would lead to increased trade flows between the two countries.

Thefts at airports

1813. SHRI ARVIND GANESH
KULKARNI:
SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN:
SHRI JAHARLAL BANERJEE:
SHRI M. ANANDAM;
SHRI MULKA GOVINDA
REDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that some

parts out of the wreckage of the aircraft which crashed at Begumpet airport have been stolen from the hangar; and

(b) if so, what precautionary measures Government have taken against such thefts?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b) There has been no theft of any of the items kept in the hangar in the custody of the Civil Aviation Department. A burnt out fire extinguisher cylinder lying in the wreckage site was taken away by some persons who were later apprehended and the cylinder recovered. The cylinder in question however was not needed for investigation purposes.

Indian Institute of Packaging

1814. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state details of the research work carried by the Indian Institute of Packaging during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): A statement of the details of the research work carried by the Indian Institute of Packaging during the last two years is attached.

Statement

Research Project/Consultancy during 1977-78 and 1978-79 (till date)

Research Projects 1977-78	Remarks
1. Spices (4 Projects) Export Packaging Development.	The project is aimed at to study the modern packaging systems and evolve alternate unit and bulk packaging systems based on indigenously available materials. Part I of the project based on the current packaging systems has been completed. Studies on the 2nd part viz. problem identification and developmental studies are in progress.