

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON  
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/3809

12 January 1973

Limited Distribution

Original: English

SCHEDULE XII - INDIA

Request for a Waiver

The following communication was received on 27 December 1972 from the Government of India.

1. As a measure of simplification and modernization of the tariff structure the Government of India have decided to change over to Brussels Tariff Nomenclature and the necessary legal and other steps for the adoption of such Nomenclature are at present being undertaken. The Bill for the adoption of the Brussels Tariff Nomenclature is expected to be introduced in the Indian Parliament in its February-May Session. Side by side with the steps that are being taken for the adoption of the new nomenclature, attempts have been made in the last few years to rationalize the tariff structure to reflect adequately the progress made by the country in the economic and industrial fields and the changes in the pattern of India's trade. The process of rationalization is continuing and some of the further steps that may be undertaken for this purpose may involve adjustments of a certain number of rates of duties bound by India under Schedule XII of the General Agreement.
2. The Government of India have reserved their right to enter into re-negotiations under paragraph 5 of Article XXVIII during the three-year period from 1 January 1973 to 31 December 1975.<sup>1</sup> However as it may not be possible to complete re-negotiations before undertaking further rationalization of the rates structure and introducing the Bill for the adoption of the BTN the Government of India requests a waiver from its obligation under Article II of the General Agreement to the extent necessary for bringing into force the new rates of duties.
3. The Government of India stand ready to enter into consultations and negotiations with interested contracting parties with a view to completing such negotiations on items on which GATT bindings may be affected, not later than December 1974.

The request by the Government of India for a waiver from its obligations under Article II will be put on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council.

<sup>1</sup>See document L/3802.