

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/4958  
18 March 1980

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## INDIA - AUXILIARY DUTY OF CUSTOMS

### Request for Extension of Waiver

The following communication, dated 17 March 1980, has been received from the Permanent Mission of India.

1. I have the honour to refer to the Decision of the Contracting Parties of 30 April 1979 (L/4802) to waive until 31 March 1980 the application of the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article II of the General Agreement to the extent necessary to enable the Government of India to apply the temporary auxiliary duty of customs, and to state that in view of the continuing difficult financial resource position, the Government of India proposes to continue the levy of auxiliary duty of customs for a further period of one year from 1 April 1980 subject to the approval of Parliament. There is no change in the conditions of levy of the auxiliary duty and the exemptions granted earlier are also maintained. The Government of India have also exempted four GATT bound items from the levy of auxiliary duty with effect from 4 March 1980 which are:

1. Prune and grapes, fresh.
2. Milk foods for infants and invalids, canned or bottled.
3. Sodium nitrate, containing not more than 16.30 per cent by weight of nitrogen.
4. Electric hearing aids.

The exemptions given to these four items have been continued for the financial year ending 31 March 1981. This exemption now granted to the above-mentioned four GATT bound items testifies to the continuing trend of liberalization in India's trade régime.

2. In spite of various measures taken and proposed to be undertaken by the Government of India to raise additional revenue, the resource situation remains difficult. Continuance of auxiliary duty of customs has, therefore, become unavoidable. Extension of the waiver for another year is requested.

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