

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM. AG/W/79/Add.12
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Special Distribution

Agriculture Committee

IMPORT MEASURES

Quantitative restrictions applied by countries
other than those covered by the Joint Working
Group

addendum

INDIA

Note: This document replaces page 133 of document COM. AG/W/68/add.2/Part 2.

Explanatory Notes

1. Imports of commodities under Open General Licence do not require individual licences. All other imports must be covered by individual licences. Licences are issued: (i) to established importers, on the basis of quotas expressed as a percentage of their individual imports in a base year chosen by them; (ii) to actual users (industries) according to their requirements; (iii) to registered exporters, up to a specified percentage of the f.o.b. value of their individual exports for replenishment of imported materials used in the manufacture of the articles they export; and (iv) to other importers on the basis of the recommendation of the appropriate authorities responsible for sponsoring their applications.
2. Import licences of the following types are now issued:
 - (i) "General Area Licences" which are valid for import from all countries;
 - (ii) "Specific Licences", such as licences for import from the Rupee Payment Area, which are valid for import from specified countries.
3. There is no licence valid for import from South Africa or South-West Africa. The "General Area" includes all countries except South Africa and South-West Africa. Import Licences are also not valid for import from Rhodesia, the Tibet region of China and Portugal. The Government of India has signed trade agreements with a number of foreign countries. Most of these agreements do not involve specific commitments on the import of any goods. They merely indicate the commodities the import or export of which the partner countries intend to facilitate.
4. At present, the import of practically all articles is subject to control. All imports, other than those covered by specified exemptions, such as passengers' baggage, defence and Government stores and goods covered by Open General Licences, require to be covered by a valid licence obtained from the licensing authorities.
5. Essential commodities such as foodgrains are imported direct by Government or public sector agencies.
6. New Zealand showed interest in unrendered fats of bovine cattle (ex 15.02) the import of which is subject to a State-trading régime and other unspecified restrictions. The Indian delegation pointed out that during the December 1969 balance-of-payments consultations, the general opinion was expressed that these restrictive measures were not more restrictive than necessary. These measures are kept under review. State trading is used to ensure that imported products are made available direct to consumers at prices lower than those which would otherwise prevail. State trading also permits bulk purchases.

Reference: BOP/119