

Secret

No.V.11015/33/87-Arms
Government of India/Bharat Sarkar
Ministry of Home Affairs/Grih Mantralaya

To

The Chief Secretaries of all State Governments/U.T.Administrations.

New Delhi, the 12-1-88

Sub:- Import Policy on fire arms-grant of certain relaxation regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to say that a ban was imposed on the import of fire arms from abroad under the Gift Scheme as well as Baggage Rules. This was brought in to force through Public Notices issued by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports on 13.11.1986. However, there was a time lag between the issue of Public Notices and the publicity given to the decision particularly to Indian Missions abroad. As a result, the Indian Missions broad continued to issue No objection Certificates for purchase and import of weapons to India. When the weapons were imported to India, they were seized by the Customs Authorities on account of the ban. Several representations were received for release of such weapons. Some Rifle Clubs/Associations also made representations for grant of certain relaxation's to their Members as the ban will adversely affect the sport of target shouting in particular. The ban also posed genuine problems in the case of persons returning to India on Transfers of Residence Rules.

2. To tides over the transitional problems and keeping in view the genuine difficulties as stated above the following decisions have been taken by the Government of India:-

- 1) To regularies all imports made upto 31.1.1987 (except those which were already confiscated and disposed of by the customs authorities) subject to the condition that such firearms shall not be transferred to any person in India during the life-time of the licensees for consideration or otherwise;

- 2) To permit persons bringing their personal affects under the Transfer of Residence Rules, 1978 to import one firearm which was in their possessions for a minimum period of one year subject to the condition that such firearm shall not be transferred to any person in India during their lifetime for consideration or otherwise;
- 3) To permit import of sorting weapons for target practice by Rifle Clubs/Associations recognized by Central/State Governments or their members, on the basis of specific recommendations of the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports.

It is requested that the above position may be brought to the notice of all licensing authorities under the control of State Governments/U.T. Admns. and directions may be issued to them to make necessary endorsements on arms possession Licences in respect of parsons who are in possession of foreign weapons imported on or after 31.1.87 to the effect that those weapons shall not be transferred to any persons in India during their lifetime for consideration or otherwise.

Receipt of the letter may please be acknowledged.

AUTHORISED FOR ISSUE

Yours faithfully,

(V.P.BHATIA)
SECTION OFFICER(MHA)

(T.K.RAVINDRANATH)
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