

# INDIAN TARIFF POLICY

Congress Golden Jubilee Brochure. No. 6

# INDIAN TARIFF POLICY

PUBLISHED BY  
ALL INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE  
SWARAJ BHAWAN, ALLAHABAD

1935

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PRINTED BY  
**MURALI MANOHAR PRASAD**  
at  
The Searchlight Press, Patna.

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## NOTE

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The Congress Jubilee Brochures, written in popular style, are meant to educate the general public and furnish them with a working knowledge of the current Indian political and cultural problems. The Congress, as an organisation, may be said to be in general agreement with the conclusions of the different authors, although it may not be possible for it to subscribe to every detail of what has been written. There may be minor points of difference here and there for which we, as publishers, or the Congress, as an organisation, can take no responsibility.

SWARAJ BHAWAN,  
ALLAHABAD.  
*December 15, 1935.*

J. B. KRIPALANI,  
*General Secretary,*  
ALL INDIA CONGRESS  
COMMITTEE

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General Secretary, A. I. C. C.

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## THE NEED FOR REVISION.

The magnitude of Customs as a source of revenue to the State may be realised from the fact that in the budget for 1935-36, a revenue of about 52 crores of rupees is expected from this source, that is, more than half the total revenue of the Central Government. We may also point out that due to hasty changes in the customs tariff since the War and due to a variety of complications introduced by ordinary preferential duties, within protective schemes, and by excise duties, we find that the Customs Tariff of India is in urgent need for a thorough revision. The existing tariff legislation was consolidated in a new Act in a 1934, but the tariff still requires a better classification leading to simplicity of understanding and execution. It should at the same time be made an effective instrument of a properly worked out national economic policy.

## CONCLUSIONS.

The following general conclusions may be drawn from this brief survey of the Indian Customs Tariff and relevant problems:—

1. Customs revenue occupied only a subordinate position in the revenue system of India till the beginning of the War.
2. The determining factor in this connection was the rigid application of the principles of free trade to India without regard to her requirements and desires.
3. In this effort obstacles were put in the way of the growth of Indian industries, for example, the excise duty on cotton goods produced in India.