

made from the powerloom sector.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether these two items have been identified among these 34 items; if not, whether he is intending to include these two items also?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the 34 extreme focus sectors are the bulk areas and these two textile products which the hon. Member has referred to, can be a part of that. But, these are the 34 medium sectors which we are giving extreme focus and which have immense potentiality of export and there is a possibility of 30 per cent growth.

I would like to emphasise one more point here. In fact I have indicated in my earlier observation also that if we exclude rupee payment area then the growth in export in general currency area is more than 10 per cent, even during the period April to January.

Prevention of Smuggling

*343 SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the illegal flow of foreign

goods into the country has increased;

(b) if so, the number of persons detained under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 during the last three years; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to check illegal flow of foreign goods into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Smuggling is a clandestine activity and, therefore, it is not possible to say whether the illegal flow of foreign goods into the country has increased or otherwise. However, the value of contraband seized under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 during the last three years, as given below, shows a declining trend. The number of persons detained under the provisions of the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 during the last three years is also given below:-

Year	Value of contraband seized (Rs. in crores)	Number of persons detained under COFEPOSA
1990	760.08	749
1991	740.00	751
1992	502.14	423

(c) The anti-smuggling agencies are suitably alert against smuggling activities. The Customs formations have been equipped with vessels, vehicles, firearms, etc. and the requirements are constantly reviewed.

Sophisticated equipment such as x-ray

baggage machines, metal detectors and night vision binoculars are being increasingly utilised. Close coordination is being maintained among all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling.

In addition, schemes for import of gold/

silver have been recently introduced and the rate of the customs duty on goods imported as baggage has been reduced to 150% ad valorem.

[Translation]

SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply to my question given by the Finance Minister is totally unsatisfactory. Not only unsatisfactory but he has tried to evade my question. I have asked the question:

[English]

"Whether the illegal flow of foreign goods into the country has increased?"

[Translation]

The Minister has replied:

[English]

"It is not possible to say whether the inflow of foreign goods has increased or decreased."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir mine was a specific question which should have been replied in 'yes' or 'no' I do not know why the reply to my question was evaded. Nowadays most of the newspapers are reporting that smuggling of illegal goods is increasing in the country. I have information about some newspapers. The Pioneer in its edition of 6th October has reported about spurt in smuggling. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am disallowing this kind of question.

[Translation]

SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: I am putting the question, when the smuggling of illegal goods is increasing so much, I would like to know categorically whether

the smuggling has increased or decreased?

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHAR MURTHY: Sir, if you permit me, I have replied:

"Smuggling is a clandestine activity and, therefore, it is not possible to say whether the illegal flow of foreign goods into the country has increased or otherwise."

But we have given the value in terms of crores of the contraband goods seized and the number of persons detained under COFEPOSA for the year 1990-91 and 1991-92. It really reflects that smuggling has come down.

SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: You have stated the correct position.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the figures provided by him in 1991 contraband goods worth Rs. 740 crore were seized and in 1992 worth 502 crore. In this regard I would like to know as to how these seized goods are disposed of and how much amount has been realised therefrom. If you dispose these contraband goods by auction, how much money you have got? Have the V.I.Ps and officers been given these goods without auction also.

[English]

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Sir, I have said that we have given the value in terms of crores of contraband goods seized.

As far as the procedure for the disposal of these goods is concerned, firstly, we will give them to the co-operative societies and some of them, we will dispose of through auction. And wherever we get more money, we will give them the goods. We have a separate departmental procedure also.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHEE TINDI VANAM: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister as to whether his answer covers the

arms and contraband drugs smuggled in the country.?

Sir, the southern coast of Tamil Nadu has actually gone into the hands of the international smugglers in spite of preventive measures taken by the Government. I would request the hon. Minister to give the extent of contraband arms and the contraband drugs that were seized during the past one year and the value of the same.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Sir, for combating smuggling, we have taken up administrative, economic and other measures viz. penal measures to curb smuggling. But as far as the question of smuggling of arms is concerned, I require a separate notice.

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to this question, the hon. Minister has stated that he is not sure regarding the increase or decrease of smuggled goods from foreign countries. Sir, I must say that as regards Bangladesh Border along the State of Assam - it is very unfortunate - that the security forces who are engaged to keep vigile on the border, it is said that there are many complaints against them that they are also involved in smuggling. I want to know whether the Government is aware of the fact and if so, what action the Government has taken to stop this. In the border area, after 7.00 p.m.; every day, the curfew is imposed and public are debarred from movement. In that situation, Sir, there are many complaints that in connivance with the security forces, these smugglers do their evil deed. I want to know whether the Government is aware of it and if so what action the Government has taken to stop this.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY: Sir, first of all, I do not agree with the hon. Member that our security forces at the border areas, in connivance with the smugglers, are encouraging smuggling. But, at the risk of their lives, they have taken so much interest in protecting the borders and not only that, they are prevent try the smuggling activities to a maximum extent.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, the hon. Minister, in reply to this question has said that "The anti-smuggling agencies are suitably alert against smuggling activities."

Sir, there are two hardships that are being faced, firstly, inadequacy of staff and secondly non-availability of sophisticated equipment. These are the two main problems which these antismuggling agencies are facing.

There are certain representations made by the Customs Officers' Association regarding this. What are the steps taken by the Government to meet these two problems?

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Regarding the inadequacy of the staff. It is true that we require more staff for effective functioning of the Department; whereas sophisticated equipments, we are trying to improve upon it; and sophisticated equipments such as x-ray baggage machine, metal detector, even night vision binocular are being increasingly utilised.

A close coordination is being maintained among all the agencies in detection and prevention of smuggling.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: The primary reports about bomb blasts in Bombay have clearly mentioned that smugglers are involved in bringing the material used for bomb blasts. Will the Minister take into account these reports and ask the anti-smuggling agencies to be more alert?

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: As you are aware, the bomb blast is being investigated by the CBI and the enquiries are on. At present, we have no information from our Department.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: It is clearly mentioned here.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: It is only through papers.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: It is by the investigating agency; it is my information.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: No, Sir. From our Department, we have no information.

[*Translation*]

Unemployment

*345 SHRI MANJAY LAL:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed youths in the country at present;

(b) the total estimated number of unemployed youths during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) the number of persons likely to get employment during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to solve the unemployment problem?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

The total number of openly unemployed persons is estimated to be around 17 million at the beginning of the Eighth Five Year Plan, by weekly status. A person is considered to be unemployed by weekly status if, though available for work, he did not get work even for one hour during the reference week. Results of the last comprehensive survey on employment and unemployment conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1987-88 show that youth (age-group 15-29) constitute 68% of the total unemployed, by weekly status.

The net addition to the labour force

during the Eighth Plan period is estimated to be of 35 million persons. The strategy envisaged in the Eighth Plan is expected to lead to creation of additional employment opportunities of the order of 8 to 9 million per year on the average, or around 43 million during the total Plan period.

Employment is a thrust area of the Eighth Five Year Plan. The Plan emphasises the need for a high rate of economic growth, combined with faster growth of sectors, sub-sectors and areas which have relatively high employment potential for enhancing the pace of employment generation. Geographically and crop-wise diversified agricultural growth, development of wastelands and forestry, development of rural non-farm sector and rural infrastructure, faster growth of small and decentralised manufacturing and expansion of housing, are the basic elements of the employment oriented growth strategy envisaged in the Plan.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANJAY LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the honourable Minister is misleading. It has been stated that 430 lakh additional employment opportunities would be created in the Eighth Five Year Plan. From the first Five Year Plan to the Seventh Five Year Plan it has been seen that the number of unemployed was more at the end of each plan than the number at the time of launching the each plan. Today, when industries are being modernised and multinational companies are coming in our country, there will be retrenchment of labourers on large scale. I would like to know whether there is any proposal to take steps to check retrenchment of labourers likely to take place or which has already taken place. Will you keep your promise of providing jobs 430 lakh additional and have you any concrete policy in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: During the year 1987-88, the rate of growth of employment has been only about 2 per cent. Out of that, we find that the employment growth rate has