

(c) and (d) Inplant training is arranged under the scheme of "Award of Scholarship to the Physically Handicapped" of the Ministry of Welfare in vogue from 1979-80. The scheme stands transferred from the Central to the State Sector from the financial year 1992-93 in pursuance of the decision of the National Development Council (NDC). The VRCs give wide publicity to their activities through Newspapers, Radio & T.V. and by organising camps both in rural and urban areas.

Traffic at Calicut Airport

522. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether traffic on international flights from Calicut Airport has come down considerably since the levying of 'Users Charge' on Passengers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) It is too early to come to any conclusion on the traffic trends since the levy of "User Charges" at Calicut Airport was done recently.

Smuggling of Weapons and Narcotics

523. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Trans-border smuggling of weapons and narcotics has increased along the Jammu and Kashmir border;

(b) if so, the facts and details in this regard; and

(c) the concrete measures the Government propose to take to check smuggling at Jammu and Kashmir borders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Concessions to SRRAC Countries on Custom Duty

524. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give concessions to South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Countries in Custom Duty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c) The SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement

(SAPTA) become operational on 7th December, 1995, with member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) giving effect to the concessions in basic customs duty agreed during the First Round of SAPTA negotiations. India has extended concessions in basic Customs Duty on 106 six-digit tariff lines vide notification No. 165/95-Customs dated the 7th December, 1995, copy of which was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 7th December, 1995.

Policy on Export of Various Items

525. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have announced a new short-term policy to encourage the export of various items;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of increase in the export and foreign exchange likely to be registered as a result of the implementation of this policy and names of the countries to which the export is likely to be increased and the extent thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Commerce Ministry has identified the existing top 15 products/groups and 15 countries, as also 10 emerging markets and products and has decided to focus export efforts on them for medium term export strategy. The Government is striving to achieve an annual export growth of at least 20%, in US dollar terms in the next five years so as to reach a goal of US \$ 75 billion exports by 2000 A.D. As regards export-import policy, Government have announced a five year EXIM Policy (1992-97) which is annually updated to accelerate export growth on a sustained basis and provide enhanced opportunities to the domestic sector to participate and benefit from such growth.

[English]

Badli Kamgars

526. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are a large number of workers working as Badli Kamgars in NTC-run textile mills and other textile mills in Mumbai (Maharashtra) :

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) since how long these workers have been working as Badli Kamgars;

(d) whether the Government propose to make these Badli Kamgars as regular workers there;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF