

City	1984		1985* (upto 30.11.1985)			
	No of cases	No. of persons arrested	No. of cases	No. of persons arrested		
				Indian	Foreigner	
Bombay	15	3	15	27	29	9
Delhi	36	20	16	32	38	2

(NOTE : *Figures for 1985 provisional)

(c) and (d) The information regarding details of gangs found carrying on illegal trade in collusion with foreigners is not readily available. The time and labour involved in collecting the same will not be commensurate with the results. All the traffickers arrested in cases of smuggling of heroin were proceeded against and prosecuted under the relevant laws.

[English]

Closing of Illegal Mining Operation in Haryana

5001. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :

SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of mines are being illegally operated in Haryana ;

(b) if so, the names of the places where such mines are in operation ; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to close down these illegal mines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SMT. RAMDULARI SINHA) (a) to (c) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Increase in Productivity of TISCO

5002. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Tata Iron and Steel Company has succeeded in increasing productivity by about 30 per cent through its research and development programme as reported in the 'Telegraph' Calcutta of 19 November, 1985 ; and

(b) if so, whether Government consider purchase of this technology for their steel plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) (a) and (b) TISCO have reported that they are striving for a 15% increase in productivity at their blast furnaces with the help of various measures to improve raw material supplies such as sizing and screening of iron ore, jigging of ore fines, better washing of coking coal and increase in proportion of sinter. They also propose to introduce stamp charging of coal.

The measures being taken by TISCO are in the nature of better operational practices. SAIL is also taking similar measures to improve its productivity and does not feel the need of purchase of technology from TISCO.

Smuggling Activities in the Border Districts of Kutch in Gujarat.

5003. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggler spyneux has been detected in the border districts of Kutch in Gujarat ;

(b) whether this nexus has resulted in growing anti-social and anti-national activities in these border districts ; and

(c) what steps have been taken to prevent the activities of smugglers in collusion with spies in these border districts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) (a) and (b) Reports received by the Government indicate that Kutch region in Gujarat State

continues to be vulnerable to smuggling activities. No case of espionage was detected in the Kutch district of Gujarat in 1984. However, one such case was detected from Lakhpat (Kutch) border in 1985, in which four persons, one Pak national and three Indian nationals, were found indulging in espionage activities.

(c) Border patrolling and surveillance have been intensified to prevent such activities in the region. Anti-smuggling drive in the region has also been intensified to check smuggling activities. The trends in smuggling and seizures made are also kept under constant review for taking appropriate remedial measures in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities.

Stringent action is taken against persons found involved in smuggling activities both departmentally as well as through prosecution in Courts. Apart from confiscation of goods involved and imposition of personal penalties, in appropriate cases preventive detention under the COFEPOSA Act is also resorted to.

Representation Regarding Exemption of excise duty on engines from Co-operation of Fishermen

5004. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the marine engines of more than 150 H.P. used by fishermen are exempted from Central Excise duty on high speed diesel, whereas engines of less than 150 H.P. are not entitled for such exemption ;

(b) whether 'Thana Jilha Machhimar Madhyavarti Sahakari Sangh, Maryadit' a cooperative of fishermen, has sent a communication to the Prime Minister on 27th November, 1985 seeking exemption on excise duty on engines with less than 150 H. P. ; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) At present refined diesel oil and diesel oil, not otherwise specified, used in fishing vessel designed for deep sea fishing, which is not less than 13.7 metres in length and not less than 150 B.H.P. is entitled to exemption from 50% of the excise duty leviable on such diesel oil. A further excise duty relief out of the other 50% of the excise duty on diesel oil is available in those cases of such deep sea fishing vessels where necessary proof of export of shrimp is produced within a stipulated time period.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The question of extending the present excise duty concession on diesel oil used in deep sea fishing vessels to the smaller fishing boats was earlier examined by the Government, but it was not found to be feasible. However, it has been decided to re-examine the said request. A decision will be taken shortly.

Proposal to allow Companies to Launch cumulative Convertible Preference Shares

5005. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to allow companies to launch cumulative convertible preference shares to attract more investments from the public ;

(b) if so, what in the Government's view are the advantages of this scheme ; and

(c) whether it would affect the flow of equity risk capital ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Guidelines for issue of the convertible cumulative preference shares were issued by the Government and laid on the Table of the House on 19th August, 1985.

(b) The cumulative convertible preference shares have the following advantages to the investing public over the existing financial instruments ;—