

Removal of Restriction Imposed on Foreign Tourists in Sikkim

2971. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDRI : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that one of the main hurdles in the Development of Tourism in Sikkim is the restriction imposed on foreign tourists;

(b) whether any representation has been received from the Government of Sikkim for the removal of the restriction; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) According to the Government of Sikkim, the restrictions imposed on foreign tourists act as hurdles to promotion of tourism in Sikkim.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Some relaxations were made in July, 1985. The Government of India reviews the restrictions imposed or movement of foreigners to Sikkim and other areas from time to time in the light of security considerations.

Seizure of Smuggled Goods at Delhi Airport

2972. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total value of smuggled goods seized at Delhi Airport from 1st April, 1985 to 31st January, 1986;

(b) the particulars of persons apprehended in this connection and the number out of them who are employees of the Indian Airlines/Air India or other Government Departments; and

(c) the action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b).

During the period from 1st April, 1985 to 31st January, 1986 contraband goods worth Rs. 5.3 crores were seized and 182 persons, including two employees of Air India and one of Indian Airlines, were arrested under the Customs Act, in connection with the smuggling activities at Delhi Airport.

(c) Stringent action is taken against persons found involved in smuggling activities both departmentally as well as through prosecution in Courts. Apart from confiscation of the goods involved and imposition of personal penalties, preventive detention under the COPEPOSA Act is also resorted to in appropriate cases. The employees of Air-India/Indian Airlines involved in smuggling activities have also been placed under suspension by the respective Airlines.

Increased Transfer Allowance for Government Staff

2973. SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the transfer allowance has been raised for Government staff as reported in 'Economic Times' of 18 February, 1986;

(b) if so, the total outlay on this for Class I, Class II, Class III and Class IV employees in terms of percentage outlay on each class above; and

(c) whether Government propose to raise TA/DA allowances of all classes specially lower classes as they are most seriously affected ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Transfer Grant rates have been revised and Packing Allowance has been provided for Government servants in terms of Ministry of Finance O.M. No. 19018/1/86-E.IV dated 3-1-1986 [Placed in the Library. See No. LT 2339/86]. No separate head of expenditure as 'Transfer T.A.' is maintained, however, since the entitlement of 'class of travel' has been left undisturbed, the additional financial implication would only be on