

workers in Maharashtra during each of the last two years indicating the amount of grants provided to them;

(b) whether the Government have reviewed the working of these organisations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) No grants for the welfare of workers have been provided to voluntary organisations in Maharashtra during the last two years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Flights from Trivandrum Airport

4799. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of international flights introduced after the Trivandrum airport was declared as an international airport; and

(b) the international flights that were being operated prior to that?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) After Trivandrum was declared an international airport, Gulf Air introduced four services per week from 1st July, 1991.

Before Trivandrum acquired the status of an international airport, Air India, Air Lanka and Indian Airlines were operating international flights from there.

Smuggling across Rajasthan

4800. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling across the border of Rajasthan has increased steadily as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated August 2, 1993 under the caption 'Smuggling gets murkier in Rajasthan';

(b) the extent to which the Pakistani intelligence agencies are involved in the smuggling and the action taken by the Government to check the same;

(c) the number of cases of smuggling taken place in the Rajasthan border during each of the last twelve months; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) Smuggling being a clandestine activity it is not possible to precisely quantify the extent of smuggling. Available intelligence indicates indirect nexus between the smugglers and Pakistan Intelligence Agency ISI. Anti-Smuggling agencies remain vigilant and close coordination is being maintained among all the agencies concerned with the prevention and detection of smuggling.

(d) Anti-Smuggling agencies are vigilant against smuggling activities. The Customs formations have been equipped with vehicles, vessels, firearms, etc. Sophisticated equipment like metal detectors, night vision binoculars, etc. are being increasingly utilised. Telecommunication network has been provided wherever considered necessary. Close coordination is being maintained among all the agencies concerned with the detection and prevention of smuggling.

[Translation]

Employees Provident Fund

4801. SHRI SATYA NARAYAN JATTYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Bill to amend the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act,