

them to set-up enterprises in manufacturing, services and business ventures was also launched in October, 1993.

[English]

#### **Auction of Cardamom**

4297. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cardamom auction being executed by the farmers was performing well;

(b) whether the Government have changed the system of auction of cardamom recently; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Cardamom auctions are not executed directly by farmers. Licenced auctioneers are separate business entities and are partnership concerns, co-operative societies, limited companies and Government Undertakings.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Conference of North-East Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministers**

4298. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of the North-East Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministers was recently held in Shillong;

(b) if so, the main points on which discussions were held at the conference;

(c) the details of recommendations made at the conference; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir, on 26th March, 1994.

(b) to (d). The main issues discussed during the meeting were to augment tourist infrastructure in the identified tourist centres and augmentation of aviation facilities in North-Eastern region.

#### **Emigration of Labour**

4299. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labourers sent to various countries during each of the last three years and as on March 31, 1994 from various States, State and Union territory-wise; and

(b) the number of labourers proposed to be sent to various countries during 1994 and 1995, State and Union territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Prior to 1993, the State-wise figures of workers seeking clearance from the Offices of Protectors of Emigrants were not maintained. During the years 1991 and 1992, 1.96 lakh and 4.17 lakh workers respectively were given clearance for contractual employment abroad. The State-wise figures of such

workers for the year 1993 and upto 31st March 1994 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The workers go for overseas employment either through the Recruiting Agents registered with the Ministry of Labour or through Project Exporters or on individual basis as per the demand in foreign countries. No assessment about the likely number of workers who may seek clearances from Protectors of Emigrants for employment abroad during the years 1994 and 1995 has been made.

#### **Separate departments for Customs and Central Excise**

4300. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to separate the departments of Customs and Central Excise;

(b) if so, whether this subject had been analysed and explored in detail through any Committee; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). No Committee has been set up by the Government to analyse and explore this proposal.

#### **Dumping of Steel**

4301. SHRI MOHAN RAWLE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some foreign steel companies from Japan, South Korea, U.K., Brazil and Argentina are trying to cash in on the present market condition prevailing in India and dump their products in the Indian market; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government and the precautionary measure being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The Indian Customs Tariff Act, 1975, as amended in October, 1982 empowers Government to enforce anti-dumping duties in those cases in which dumped goods are found to be causing material injury to the domestic industry. Before, such a duty can be imposed, the Authority designated by Government has to make a finding on the existence of dumping and injury to the domestic industry; and a causal link between the dumped goods and the alleged injury to the domestic industry. The Designated Authority, under the Customs Tariff Act and Customs Tariff Rules thereunder, is normally required to initiate an investigation only upon receipt of a written request supported by evidence of dumping, injury to the domestic industry and a causal link between the two by or on behalf of the affected domestic industry. Government has since put in place the necessary arrangements to investigate and redress cases of injurious dumping.

The Designated Authority, under the Customs Tariff Rules supra has yet to receive a complaint from the domestic industry alleging injury caused to it by dumped imports of steel originating from Japan, Republic of Korea, U.K., Brazil and Argentina.