

been given clearance by Protector of Emigrants to work as maids in Singapore.

(b) Names and details of the Indian and Singapore agencies which are involved in the recruitment of Indian maids from the north east region are as follows :

(1) S. S. Navalkar, Uniexports, Navalkars Tours and Travels, 47, Laxmi Building, 3rd floor, P. M. Road, Bombay-400 001. Tel: 2663434/2679033

(2) Akid Zaman, H & Z International Inc., Jayanta Commercial Centre, Panchavati G.N.B. Road, Guwahati (Assam).

(3) Mrs. Winne Wang. Further Creation Investment Pvt. Ltd., Singapore. Tel. 2250707.

(c) and (d) . So far a total of 2668 Recruiting Agencies have been issued Registration Certificates under the Emigration Act, 1983 for the whole country. Before issue of Registration Certificates, the antecedents of the proprietor/partners/Directors of the agencies are got verified from the concerned police authorities.

Smuggling of Deadly Explosive

861. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

SHRI D. VENKETESWARA RAO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the smuggling of deadly explosive "RDX" is continuing in large scale in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Pakistan's ISI is involved in sending large RDX for extremists working in India ;

(d) if so, whether the Government had called for the meeting of some State Governments to discuss the situation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to remedy the situation?

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

Extension of Runway

862. SHRI HARILAL MANJI PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend runway from 9000 ft. to 12000 ft. at Ahmedabad international airport to facilitate the landing of big national and international aircraft; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) . Airports Authority of India (AAI) has a plan to extend the runway from 9000 ft. to 11500 ft. at Ahmedabad airport.

The State Government of Gujarat has recently acquired the land which is yet to be handed over to AAI for this purpose.

SC/ST Posts Abolished in ITPC

863. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than 100 posts in various cadres reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes have been abolished in India Trade Promotion Organisation since 1977;

(b) if so, the details thereof, category-wise alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to revive these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In compliance with the Government of India directive on economy in expenditure by way of reduction of at least 10% of the posts in each category and also on account of the merger of ex-Trade Development Authority (TDA) with ex-Trade Fair Authority of India (TFAI), the rationalisation of staff was done and a policy of need based requirement of personnel in the combined organisation named India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) was pursued. Consequent upon this 153 posts were abolished in ITPO in 1993 which includes 30 posts reserved for SC's and ST's. The categorywise details of such SC/ST posts abolished in ITPO are given below :-