

document as mentioned in reply to parts (a) & (b), contraband goods including narcotic drugs worth Rs. 111.80 crores (provisional) were seized by custom authorities throughout the country in 10246 cases during the period from June, 91 to August 91.

(d) The persons found involved in smuggling activities are penalised in departmental adjudication and are prosecuted in courts of law in suitable cases. They are also detailed under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and prevention of Smuggling Act, 1974, if considered necessary.

Enforcement of foreigners (Restricted Area) Order, 1963

5764. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:
DR. G.L.KANAUJIA:
SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the states which have been declared restricted area under the foreigners (Restricted Area) Order, 1963;

(b) whether it has affected the tourist traffic in these States;

(c) whether any state's administration/ Government has sought withdrawal of the above order; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura,

certain parts of Sikkim and Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands have been declared as restricted areas under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963.

(b) For promotion of tourism development, various places have been opened up for entry and movement of foreign tourists from time to time. The Government has been gradually relaxing the provisions under the above order to facilitate the movement of foreign tourists in the interest of tourism development in these states.

(c) and (d). Of late, some requests were received from the state governments/Union Territory Administration. These were examined and relaxations were issued, wherever feasible, keeping in view the overall requirement of tourism promotion and consideration of national security.

Closure of sponge iron India Ltd. Units

5765. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether some units of sponge iron India Ltd. at Paloncha in Andhra Pradesh have been closed down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the loss incurred by the SAIL as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to receive the unit there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). One of the two rotary kilns of the sponge iron plants of Sponge Iron India Ltd. (SIIL) at Paloncha in Andhra Pradesh was closed down during

May and June, 1991 due to shortage of good quality coal. The loss of sales revenue to SILL of this account is estimated at Rs. 198 lakhs.

(c) Operation of the second kiln has been restarted.

[Translation]

Uttar Pradesh

93 **Setting up of Aluminium Plant at Ghazipur**

5766. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up an Aluminium plant in Ghazipur district of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and progress made so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

93 **Conversion of Rajinder Nagar Telephone Exchange into electronic exchange in Patna**

Bihar

5767. SHRI RAM SUNDER DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Rajendra Nagar Telephone Exchange in Patna into Electronic telephone exchange; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be converted into electronic telephone exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI

RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 10,000 lines cross-bar exchange is proposed to be replaced by 10,000 lines E 10 B electronic exchange by 1993-94.

94 **Return of persons of Indian origin from Fiji**

5768. SHRI YASHWANT RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of persons of Indian origin in Fiji who have returned to India since 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): 4873 Fiji nationals have come to India since 1987 till June, 1991. No separate information is maintained in respect of those of Indian origin.

[English]

94 **Telex facility in Solapur district of Maharashtra**

5769. SHRIDHARMANAMONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Solapur District of Maharashtra which are having Telex facility;

(b) whether the Government propose to cover all the important places like Tehsil Headquarters, Block Headquarters, etc. for providing such facility; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Telex exchange is available at Solapur City.