

Pak Interference in Kashmir

*424. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Community have asked Pakistan to stop interference in Kashmir;

(b) if so, the precise details in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The European Community has both directly to Pakistan and in public urged the Government of Pakistan to take effective steps to prevent interference in Kashmir.

(c) The Government of India welcomes the understanding shown by the European Community of the facts. It is our hope that Pakistan will immediately take effective measures to stop all such interference in our internal affairs.

Review of Increase in Visa Fee

*425. SHRI R. SRIDHARAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the recent increase in the visa fee for foreign tourists visiting India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The visa fee for foreign tourists visiting India has been reviewed.

(b) The revised visa fee for foreign tourists effective from 12th December, 1991 is as follows:

- | | |
|------|---|
| i) | Tourist visa valid for one month
..... Rs. 125/- |
| ii) | Tourist visa valid upto six months
..... Rs. 625/- |
| iii) | Tourist visa valid upto one year
..... Rs. 1300/- |
| iv) | Tourist visa valid upto 5-years
..... Rs. 2600/- |

Uniform pricing policy for Agricultural Commodities

*426. SHRI M.G. REDDY:
SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KON-
ATHALA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to bring about a uniform pricing policy for agricultural commodities in all States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b). The Government announces uniform support prices for the whole country for major agricultural commodities and organises purchase operations through public, cooperative agencies, etc. The Government decides on the uniform support price for various agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, the views of the State

Governments concerned Central Ministries, etc.

Allotment of L.P.G. Distributorships

*306. SHRIMATI MALINI BHAT-TACHARYA: Will the Minister of PETRO-LEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been complaints from Eastern Region regarding the allotment of LPG distributorships by the Oil Selection Board;

(b) whether, in spite of the Government directive, priority of well-run co-operatives in getting such distributorships has not been maintained; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Govern-ment to ensure fair allotment of such dis-tributorships?

THE MINISTER OF PERTOLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) In a few cases some persons went to court against the selection made by the Oil Selection Boards. In some others, certain representations were made.

(b) and (c). There is no separate quota for cooperative societies. Other things being equal, preference is to be given to coopera-tive societies over other candidates who apply in the 'open' category.

Import of Ship-Building Material

*431. SHRIMATI DIPIKACHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on import of ship building material and equipments during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to

encourage indigenous production of these items; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The amount spent on import of ship-building material and equip-ments by Public Sector Shipyards during each of the last three years is given below:-

1988-89	-	Rs. 93.66 crores
1989-90	-	Rs. 102.46 crores
1990-91	-	Rs. 83.21 crores

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Ministry of Surface Transport has a scheme of providing Grant-in-Aid to the entrepreneurs who develop import substitu-tion items indigenously. Grant-in-Aid upto 70% of the total development cost is made available for this purpose.

Simplification of Baggage Clearance Procedures

432. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minis-ter of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Excise and Customs has simplified the baggage clearance procedure at the international airports in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESH-WAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scale of checks at green chan-nel has been considerably reduced, Cus-toms officers have been told to be polite and