

appearing in the Indian Express of 13 October, 1986;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the BSF jawans posted in the eastern border of Himachal Pradesh which adjoins Tibet have failed to detect the smuggling activities; and

(c) the steps Union Government propose to take to stop smuggling at Indo-Tibet border ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Smuggling on Indo-Tibet border" which appened in the Indian Express dated the 13th October, 1986.

(b) No, Sir. Reports received do not indicate prevalence of smuggling activities in the region on any significant scale.

(c) In order to check smuggling activities in the region, the Government, have entrusted certain functions of the officers of Customs under the Customs Act to the Officers of Indo Tibet Border Police. The trends in smuggling and seizures made in the region are kept under constant review for taking appropriate remedial measures in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government agencies deployed in the region.

#### Commissioning of Nuclear Research Reactor of Bangladesh

614. SHRI ANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that Bangladesh has had its first nuclear research reactor commissioned on September 14, 1986; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. PATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have noted that according to the Bangladesh authorities, the reactor is to be utilized in the fields of radio isotopes production for use in nuclear medicine and applied agricultural research.

#### Export of Processed Fruit and Vegetables

615. SHRI SHAMINDER SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of Indian processed fruit and vegetable exports in terms of world figures; and

(b) the reasons for poor performance in this area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) The export of Indian processed fruits and vegetables constitute less than 1% in terms of world trade.

(b) There are a number of factors inhibiting the growth of exports. These interalia include the following :—

- (1) the level of productivity of Fruits and vegetables in India is low as compared to the productivity of the major exporting countries.
- (2) Suitable variety of fruits are not specifically grown for processing as the horticulture production is not organised specifically for export production.
- (3) The fruits and vegetables are processed mostly in the Small Scale Sector, which employ out-moded Technology of processing which is not cost-effective.
- (4) Packaging materials are costly and packagings are not suited to the requirements of the highly quality conscious consumers.
- (5) The processing Industry is dependent on exports. It does not have the support of the domestic market as the domestic market is limited, owing to high prices of the processed products.