

(b) the steps being taken to ensure the strict quality control of consignments by this Agency ;

(c) whether some Staff Associations have represented to Government against extension of In-process Quality Control and Self-certification systems of inspection; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) During 1986, out of 1,50,00 consignments cleared by Export Inspection Agency only 36 complaints pertaining to short weight, inferior quality, product not as per samples, manufacturing defects, V. cholerae contamination, infestation etc. were received.

(b) Units approved under In-process Quality Control (IPQC) are periodically checked to ensure that the facilities for inspection are adequate and the stipulated quality control drills are followed. Consignments inspected by officers of the Export Inspection Agency (EIA) are taken up for surprise checks by the Technical Audit Cells and Senior Officers to keep a vigil on the Inspection Officers. Departmental action is also initiated against officers found guilty for committing irregularities in the field of inspection.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government policy is to encourage units to adopt In-process Quality Control and Self-certification systems which are aimed at long term programme of quality development in India. Under these systems the units assume responsibility for quality maintenance.

Seizure of Fishing Vessels by Maritime Security Agencies of Pakistan and India

6409. SHRI R.M. BHOYE :
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :
SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of fishing vessels seized and crew members arrested by the maritime security agencies of India and Pakistan during last three years ; and

(b) whether the matter has been taken up with Pakistan Government and if so, with what result ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Since October 1986 India has seized 32 Pakistani fishing vessels with 434 crew and it is estimated that Pakistan has seized 15 Indian fishing vessels (Plus two Taiwanese vessels on lease) with 133 Indian nationals.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Pakistan Government has so far released two Taiwanese vessels along with their crew on the payment of fines and finalised cases against two other Indian vessels.

Memorandum Demanding Self-Determination for People of Tibet

6410. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a memorandum demanding self-determination for the people of Tibet had recently been submitted to the Prime Minister ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

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

(b) The Government of India consider Tibet to be an autonomous part of the People's Republic of China.

Diversification of Foreign Trade

6411. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken or propose to take any steps to expand and diversify India's foreign trade composition and direction ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b) The major steps taken in the recent past to expand and diversify India's foreign trade composition in terms of its export basket include setting up of separate export promotion councils for overseas construction and Electronics and computer software, formulation of schemes for project assistance for turn-key construction and consultancy projects, development of schemes for export of various items like Tea, Cashew, Spices, Marine products and Mica in value added form, and setting up of Design-cum-Development Centres for Footwear, Sports Goods and Readymade garments. Similarly, a number of initiatives have been taken in the recent past to expand and diversify our export markets. These include bilateral agreements with several countries, organisation of exclusive Indian Exhibition and participation in general as well as Commodity-specific international fairs and organisation of buyer-seller meets, etc.

Manufacture of Bushy Mustang II Aircraft

6412. **SHRI MANIK REDDY :**

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :

SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :

SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a licence has been given to manufacture Bushy Mustang II small aircraft to a private party ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Exemption to Journalists and Publishers from Appearing in Courts

6413. **SHRI PRATAPRAO R. BHOSALE :**

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether suggestions have been made to Government to exempt journalists and publishers from appearing in courts ;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions and from whom these have emanated ;

(c) the action being taken in this regard ; and

(d) if no action is proposed to be taken, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d) The Government have seen Press Reports about the suggestion of the Editors Guild of India for amending the Code of Criminal Procedure to exempt journalists and publishers from appearing in courts in connection with defamation cases. The Second Press Commission has also made a recommendation on the subject. The question of enacting a special legislation to amend the law of defamation taking into consideration the recommendation made by the Press Commission is at present engaging the attention of the Government.

Palace on Wheels' Train

6414. **SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :** Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of utilization of the 'Palace on Wheels' train; and

(b) the steps taken, if any, to increase its utilization ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SYED) : (a) The Palace on Wheels project has been commercially functioning since 1982-83. The number of passengers carried and the average occupation per trip are as under :—