

Achievements of SAARC Summit

902. DR. B. L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the third session of the Council of Ministers of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was held in New Delhi during June, 1987;

(b) if so, its achievement and the outcome of the call given by the Prime Minister of India for closer SAARC co-operation; and

(c) the steps suggested by the SAARC to stop drug trafficking through bilateral arrangements and the follow-up action taken in this behalf to curb drug menace ?

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

(b) The meeting took a number of decisions which will have the effect of expanding and strengthening regional cooperation. These decisions are generally along the lines suggested by the Prime Minister in his inaugural address.

(c) The SAARC Technical Committee on the Prevention of Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse has recommended the exchange of operational intelligence and detailed information on suspects and traffickers, improvement in communication and tele-communication links and frequent meetings of the agencies concerned to evolve ways and means to stop drug trafficking. Follow-up action is being taken in terms of these recommendations.

Agencies Supplying Yarn to Handloom Factorles

903. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the agencies through which the

yarn is being supplied to handloom factories for the smooth running of handlooms;

(b) the criteria that have been laid down to fix the price of yarn at which it is being supplied; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure regular yarn supply to the handloom industry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Handloom sector has to depend on the organised mill sector for its supply of yarn. This is supplied mainly through private traders although some Cooperative Societies and State Handloom Development Corporations have made arrangements for supply of yarn to the weavers covered by them. The National Handloom Development Corporation is also implementing a scheme to supply yarn to State Handloom Agencies.

(b) No criteria for fixing the price of yarn has been laid down.

(c) Government of India have imposed a statutory obligation on all mills to pack at least 50% of their marketable yarn in the form of hanks, 85% of which is to be in counts 40s and below.

Controlled Cloth to Economically Weaker Sections

904. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government's scheme regarding distribution of controlled cloth to economically weaker sections and villagers is being administered by the Food and Civil Supplies Department of Maharashtra Government since 1972;

(b) whether a card holder used to get restricted quantities of dhoti saree and long cloth at controlled prices every three months;

(c) whether Union Government removed these restrictions with effect from February, 1982;

(d) if so, whether this has led to misuse of the controlled cloth meant for the poor; and

(e) if so, whether Union Government propose to reimpose the earlier restrictions so that controlled cloth could be available to the poor at cheaper price?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Restrictions were relaxed with effect from 21.1.1982.

(d) It cannot be said that controlled cloth has been unauthorisedly diverted because of this relaxation.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Installation of Computer In Passport Office Hyderabad

906. SHRI S. PALAKONDRAYUDU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to instal computer in the Regional Passport Office at Hyderabad (AP) during 1987-88; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount sanctioned for the same ?

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

(b) The Ministry has made plans to computerise 16 of its passport offices in a phased manner. The Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad is being covered during 1987-88. The cost of computer system at Hyderabad for which order has already been placed is Rs. 4,15,000 (excluding local

taxes).

Tourists Spots In West Bengal

907. DR. SUDHIR ROY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the tourist spots in West Bengal which have been brought on the international tourism map;

(b) whether some arrangements have been made for the development of these places during the present plan period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). The places of tourist interest which have a reasonable level of infrastructure are publicised and promoted abroad by the Department of Tourism. Some of the following places in West Bengal are popular with foreign tourists, such as Calcutta; Darjeeling-Kalimpong-Kurseong; Digha; Shantiniketan; Jalapara (Wild life sanctuary) and the Sunderban; etc.

The Department's print production programme for the year 1986-87 included the following special Folders and Directories on West Bengal which are distributed through our offices overseas:

- 1) Calcutta Folder
- 2) Calcutta Directory
- 3) Shantiniketan, Vishnupur Durgapur Folders
- 4) Shantiniketan, Vishnupur Durgapur Directory

During the 7th Plan period the Central Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 40.17 lakhs for construction of tourist lodge and 5 cottages at Digha. Out of Rs. 40.17 lakhs RS. 20.00 lakhs have already been released to the Government of West Bengal.