

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) The reports received by the Government indicate that the India-Pakistan border continues to be vulnerable to smuggling activities, due essentially to geographical factors, price differential in respect of various commodities, the constant attempts at diversification of routes by smugglers, etc. The value of contraband goods seized on the border during the year 1984 (upto November) was of the order of Rs. 2.8* crores, as against Rs. 3.8 crores worth of goods seized in 1983.

The preventive and intelligence agencies of the Central and State Governments remain vigilant in the matter and appropriate anti-smuggling measures are taken in close co-ordination by the concerned Central and State Government authorities. The matter is also kept under constant review for appropriate action.

Stringent action is taken against the persons found involved in the smuggling activities both departmentally as well as through prosecution in a Court of Law. In appropriate cases, detention under COFEPOSA Act is also resorted to.

Presence of Foreign Powers in Indian Ocean

339. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing naval presence of certain foreign powers in the Indian Ocean ;

(b) whether he is also aware of the increasing frequency of attacks on our fishing vessels in this region ; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to protect our interest in the Indian Ocean ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Over a

period of years there has been a general, though occasionally fluctuating, upward trend in the Naval presence of some foreign powers in the Indian Ocean.

(b) Except for increase in the attacks on our fishing vessels by Sri Lankan forces in the Palk Strait, there have been no other incidents.

(c) The Government of India constantly reviews the maritime security environment in the Indian Ocean and initiates appropriate measures to protect its interests. The Navy is also being strengthened.

Production and demand for coal

340. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

SHRIMATI CHANDRA-
BHANU DEVI :

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of coal produced during the year 1984 ;

(b) the actual coal demand during 1984 ; and

(c) steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to increase the production of coal in the coming years ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) The quantity of coal produced during the year 1984 is given below :

(Figures in million tonnes)

Year	Production
1984 (Jan. to Dec, 184)	144.81

(b) The demand for coal during

* provisional.

1983-84 and 1984-85 as estimated by the Planning Commission at the beginning of the years, and the actual offtake during 1984 are given below :

(i) *Demand as assessed by Planning Commission*

1983-84	147.17 million tonnes
1984-85	155.7 million tonnes

(ii) *Actual offtake during*

1984	139.06 million tonnes
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(Jan. to Dec. '84)

(c) Several steps are being taken to increase the production of coal. These include improving the infrastructural facilities, sanctioning of new mines, improving the productivity of men and machinery, expediting land acquisition for coal mining purposes and controlling absenteeism.

Report of Fourth Pay Commission

341 : PROF. P.J KURIEN :
 SHRI NAVIN RAVANI :
 SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :
 SHRI LALIT MAKEN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the Fourth Pay Commission's report is expected to be submitted;

(b) whether Government are considering to sanction any interim relief to the Central Government employees; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :

(a) In accordance with its terms of reference, the Fourth Central Pay Commission will make its recommendations as soon as practicable. It may consider, if necessary,

sending reports on any of the matters as and when the recommendations are finalised. The work of the Commission is in progress. It is, however, not possible at this stage to indicate the time by which the Commission would submit its report.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal at present under the consideration of the Government to sanction another instalment of interim relief to Central Government employees.

Negotiation with Soviet Union for Defence Supplies

342. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the negotiations for Defence supplies with Soviet Union were interrupted when the then Defence Minister had to return home following the assassination of Mrs. Indira Gandhi on October 31 last;

(b) if so, whether he intends to resume these negotiations;

(c) if so, when he proposed to go to Soviet Union; and

(d) whether the supplies being negotiated will cover latest generation of Migs, tanks and field guns ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) The former Raksha Mantri Shri S.B. Chavan led a delegation which arrived in the USSR on 30th October, 1984. The delegation cut short its visit and returned to New Delhi on the 31st October, 1984.

The visit of Raksha Mantri was essentially a goodwill visit. However, aspects of defence cooperation would also have been discussed during talks with Soviet leaders.

(b) to (d). No decisions have yet been taken in this regard.