

परदेत क्षीर नागर विमानन संघो (क्षी पुष्कोत्तम कौशिक) : (क) से (ग) : अपेक्षित सूचना एकत्रित की जा रही है और जैसे ही यह उपलब्ध हो जाएगी लोग-सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Application of COFEPOSA

2481. DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report which appeared in the *Patriot* dated 7th February, 1978 that the Minister of State for Finance stated in Calcutta "the West Bengal Government was not willing to apply COFEPOSA but it was not opposed to the Union Government applying it when necessary" is correct; and

(b) what are the reasons given by the West Bengal Government for its stand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) The Minister of State for Finance had in his Press Conference at Calcutta on 6th February 1978 stated that as the Government of West Bengal was not willing to apply the provisions of the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974, the steps for applying the said Act in the State of West Bengal were under consideration.

(b) The Government of West Bengal are of the view that all offenders should be brought to trial under the normal law only, and preventive detention should not be resorted to.

Elimination of Smuggling by allowing Free Import of all goods

2482. DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report (in *Patriot* dated 7th February, 1978) that the Minister of State for Finance stated

in Calcutta that "smuggling in the country was on the decline because of the Government liberalisation of imports and reduction of import duties" is correct; and

(b) if so, whether it is the policy of the Government to eliminate smuggling completely by allowing free import of all goods under the sun?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGRAWAL): (a) and (b). The Minister of State for Finance had stated at Calcutta that despite release of over 2,000 smugglers on revocation of the emergency, smuggling continued to be effectively contained. The value of seizures had shown a decreasing trend during 1977 compared to previous years. This had been possible as a result of strengthening of preventive and intelligence machinery and certain economic measures taken by Government. These economic measures include liberalisation of imports and reduction/abolition of customs/Central Excise duties on certain items sensitive to smuggling. Such measures would also be taken in future as and when considered necessary.

News-item captioned Policy confusion sets Viscose fibre Imports

2483 DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state whether there is any truth in the report which appeared in the *Financial Express* dated 10th February, 1978 that "Policy confusion sets viscose fibre imports" due to "lack of coordination between the Union Ministers of Commerce and Industry" and because of a number of sudden and erratic import policy changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): No, Sir.