

Assistance from voluntary groups to check smuggling.

1663. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the trend noticed by Government with regard to the range and extent of smuggling in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that smuggling has again raised its ugly head with renewed intensity; and

(c) whether Government have considered the advisability of mobilising assistance from voluntary groups of dedicated workers to counter the anti-social menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) and (b). Assessment reports reaching the Government do not suggest any spurt in smuggling activities. According to these reports smuggling is well contained.

(c) There was no occasion for Government to consider such a suggestion. However, Government would welcome assistance from such voluntary agencies in tackling the menace of smuggling.

Decline in export earnings from traditional export items

1664. SHRI K. KUNHAMBU:

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export earnings from the traditional export items like cashew, coffee, tea etc. have come down substantially during 1978-79;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has devised any long term export strategy to boost up the export of these items; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reasons in the case of tea, coffee and cashew kernels are decline in world prices, and reduced availability of raw cashew nuts.

(c) and (d). Government has adopted a long term stable export policy of strengthening and expanding the production base of selected items, both in industrial and agricultural field, and generating exportable surpluses. Priorities for allocating funds for selected export sectors including tea, coffee and cashew are being considered by the Planning Commission in consultation with Central Ministries and the State Governments. It is only with a strong production base that we can have sustained exports.

Blacklisting of Garment Exporters

1665. SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several garment exporters have been recently blacklisted;

(b) if so, how many together with their names and addresses;

(c) the reasons for blacklisting them;

(d) the details of malpractices indulged in by each of them; and

(e) whether other penalties, besides the blacklisting, are contemplated against some, if not all of them?

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