

Green Channel System at Airports for Clearance of Passengers

9611. SHRI S. S. LAL: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the green channel system at the airports for smooth clearance of passengers has been misused in the recent past and goods have passed to open markets through the smugglers who have exploited the generosity of the Department;

(b) if so, the number of cases detected; and

(c) what special exemplary punishment is proposed to be given to such offenders who knowingly and intentionally try to misuse the facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) to (c). Although a number of passengers passing through green channel have been apprehended carrying contraband or dutiable goods, there has, considering the total number of incoming passengers, not been any significant misuse of the green channel facilities. During the period from January to April 1979, 361 such cases were detected.

In cases involving deliberate attempts at smuggling, besides confiscation of the offending goods, personal penalties are also levied on the persons concerned. Prosecutions are also launched in appropriate cases.

Export of knit-wear to USSR

9612. SHRI PABITRA MOHAN PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether on 8th March, 1979 a contract has been signed with USSR to export knit-wear and as per this contract the export will rise by 40 per cent than the previous quantity of export; and

(b) if so, what would be the amount in terms of rupees of the entire export commodities for the current year and the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) The value of export orders for woollen knitwear to USSR during 1978 was approximately Rs. 21 crores. The value of contracts signed in March, 1979 is approximately Rs. 31 crores.

(b) Exports of woollen knitwears to USSR during 1978-79 are provisionally placed at Rs. 23 20 crores. The export during 1979-80 is likely to be higher; but the actual trend will be known only later.

Introduction of new gold policy

9613. SHRI AMARSINH V RATHAWA: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to introduce a new gold policy to bring down its price;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government are considering to stop the export of jewellery for normalisation of gold price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) and (b). The Government have appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Governor, Reserve Bank of India to review gold policy in all its aspects and make appropriate recommendations. The report of the Committee is awaited. Changes, if any, in the present gold policy, will be effected only on receipt of the recommendations of the Committee.

(c) No, Sir.