

Increase in smuggling of White Metal

5597. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the imposition of ban on the export of silver, smuggling of the white metal has increased; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to plug the smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) and (b). According to reports received by Government, there is no indication of any increase in smuggling of silver out of the country after imposition of ban on 20-2-1979. However, the situation is kept under close watch and the customs preventive and intelligence machinery has been suitably instructed to be vigilant to thwart any attempts at smuggling of silver out of the country.

State Governments' to operate Internal Feeder Services

5598. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have shown interest to operate internal feeder services; and

(b) if so, names of these States and Governments reaction on it?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURU-SHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b). Some State Governments such as Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Tamil Nadu have evinced interest for operating feeder air services. The question of connecting small towns and cities of tourist and other interest by Third Level Air Services is engaging the attention of the Government, and the question whether the State Government or private parties could be permitted to operate feeder services would be examined after a decision on Third Level operation is taken. The Report of the Expert Committee on the Third Level Air Services is under examination of the Government.

Accumulation of Income Tax and Excise duty arrears

5599. SHRI ANANT DAVE: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are cases throughout the country where accumulation of Income Tax and Excise Duty arrears on account of non-payment of the order of 5 lakhs in each case have been considered by Government;

(b) if so, the firms, companies and individuals against whom such arrears are outstanding; and