

and how many applications are still pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Vintage Cars and Obsolete Guns/Rifles

2754. SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of applications for export of Vintage Cars and obsolete guns/rifles are pending before Government;

(b) if so, what is the policy of Government in this regard; and

(c) how many export licences have been issued in regard to these items during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) 34 applications have been made for export of 73 Vintage cars. As regards export of obsolete guns/rifles, no licence is necessary as the item is allowed under OGL 3.

(b) and (c). Under the current export policy, export of Vintage cars may be allowed "on merits" with effect from 30th March, 1979. Prior to the above date, its export was banned. No licence for export has so far been issued.

As regards, obsolete guns/rifles, no export licence has been issued since the item is allowed for export under Open General Licence No. 3.

Steps to stop Smuggling activity on Indo-Nepal Border

2755. SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that large scale smuggling

of foreign goods of Chinese origin is taking place into the country on the Indo-Nepal border near Gauriphanta checkpost; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to stop smuggling activity at the Indo-Nepal border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) Reports received by Government do not indicate any large scale smuggling of goods of Chinese origin into India on the Indo-Nepal border near Gauriphanta checkpost.

(b) The strength of Customs staff posted at Gauriphanta checkpost has been augmented and anti-smuggling measures along the Indo-Nepal border have been intensified to prevent any attempts at smuggling across the border.

Tobacco rotting in STC Godowns

2756. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRI JAGPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge stock of tobacco valued at crores of rupees is rotting in the godowns of the STC;

(b) if so, the stock of tobacco (with value) accumulated in the godowns of STC awaiting disposal;

(c) the reasons for the stock lying undisposed of;

(d) the estimated loss likely to be suffered by way of offering discount because of its deteriorating quality; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to dispose of the stock to minimise the losses?