

Abolition of cess on Rubber Industry

3550. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rubber growers had demanded abolition of cess on the industry and also urged to exempt rubber from the levy of Central Sales Tax and Local Sales Tax; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Absorption of Kalinga Airlines Employees

3551. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from Kalinga Airlines Employees Union, Calcutta for absorption of Ex-Kalinga Airlines Employees in Indian Airlines or Air India;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to rehabilitate these ex-employees; and

(c) whether recruitment from outside has been resorted to by the Indian Airlines and the Air India ignoring the claim of these experienced employees?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) to (c). Representations have been received from time to time from Kalinga Airlines Employees Union as well as others. Some of the ex-employees of Kalinga Airlines had been appointed in Indian Airlines in 1968 and 1971-72. Since many of the employees do not come within the prescribed age limits in the regulations of the two Corporations, it has

not been possible to appoint all of them. The claims of these ex-employees are not ignored, subject of course to their fulfilling the laid down requirements regarding age and qualifications.

Raids conducted by Income-tax and Customs Authorities

3552. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids conducted by Income-Tax and Customs authorities for seizure of black money and contraband goods—separately during the period January 1980 to November 1980, month-wise; and

(b) the details of black money and contraband goods seized in each raid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) and (b). The details of the number of searches conducted under the Customs Act, 1962 and the value of goods seized as a result thereof are available (month-wise) for the period January to October 1980. These are given below:

Month	Number of Searches	Value of goods seized (Rs. in lakhs)
January	1578	45.98
February	1679	75.34
March	*1590	*25.68
April	*1544	*36.17
May	*1117	*26.47
June	*1118	*31.09
July	*1598	*71.83
August	*936	*34.84
September	*1115	*52.51
October	*1210	*40.53
Total	*13485	*440.44

*Figures provisional.

The details regarding search and seizure operations by the Income-tax Department during the period January to October 1980 are furnished below:

Month	Number of Searches	Value of Cash, Jewellery and other items seized (Rs. in lakhs)
January	198	262.28
February	249	91.61
March	186	94.75
April	316	118.93
May	182	98.19
June	143	305.41
July	103	112.76
August	753	53.54
September	310	176.85
October	258	223.53
Total	2698	1537.85

Improvement in runway of Port Blair

3553. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to improve the present runway of Port Blair, which is lacking all facilities for all-weather landing and the runway is also short and a number of proposals were sent in earlier occasions without any results, if so, what is the action proposed to be taken, state in details and when; and

(b) how much fund has been allocated for the said work?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

An estimate for provision of over-run and pipe drain at an estimated cost of Rs. 21.56 lacs has been sanctioned. It is proposed to strengthen the existing runway to LCN-40 at an estimated cost of Rs. 80 lacs. The work is proposed to be taken up in 1981-82.

Smuggling of contraband snake skins

3554. SHRI D. S. K. SIVAPRAKASAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Director, Revenue Intelligence, Calcutta caught any person smuggling contraband snake skins across Bangladesh border in the month of July, 1980;

(b) whether Government are aware that this kind of smuggling is going on for a long time; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to prevent this kind of smuggling and killing snakes mercilessly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The seizure of snake skins valued at Rs. 24 lakhs was made jointly by officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Calcutta and the Customs officers of the West Bengal Central Excise Collectorate, Calcutta.

(b) The reports received by Government do not show any large-scale smuggling of snake skins out of India. The figures of seizures of snake skins made by the Customs authorities during the last three years are indicated below:—

Year	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1978	49.66
1979	70.89
1980	34.90

(Upto 30th Sept.)