

closed due to various factors including financial difficulties are showing keenness for reopening and in fact some of them have already resumed working and few others are likely to reopen in near future.

Alleged Involvement of Government Officials in Smuggling

4153. DR. A. U. AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Customs authorities have registered a case under the Customs Act, 1962, against four Heads of Departments of U.P. Government and their subordinates of alleged involvement in smuggling of goods into the country from Nepal borders;

(b) if so, full details of the case together with the action taken thereon and the *modus operandi* in the matter; and

(c) the present position of the case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO): (a) to (c) On the 22nd March, 1982, the Customs authorities in Lucknow received information that one Shri S. S. Srivastava, proprietor of a photographic concern at Calcutta, had supplied illegally imported cameras and other photographic equipment to the Uttar Pradesh State Government Departments of Tourism, Information, Archaeology and Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.

Shri S. S. Srivastava, who was apprehended on the 23rd March, 1982, denied having supplied the goods. However, search of his brief case resulted in the recovery of documents revealing that he had in fact supplied the photographic equipment to the above departments.

Letters were thereafter issued by the Customs authorities to the concerned State Government departments to hand over the offending goods for action under the law.

Appropriate proceedings are being initiated under relevant provisions of the Customs law with respect to the offending goods and against the persons found to be *prima facie* concerned in terms of section 112 of the Customs Act, 1962.

Objections by Importing Countries against Export Items

4154. SHRI K. A. SWAMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any objections have been raised by the importing countries against some of our export items on grounds of non-compliance with their environmental standards; and

(b) if so, the details of the products and the nature of objections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Government is not aware of any such objections raised by importing countries against Indian export items on grounds of non-compliance of environmental standards.

(b) Does not arise.

News-item Captioned "Vayudoot is making Castles in the Air"

4155. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Vayudoot has not been found suitable and economically viable to serve as a feeder service;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) if not, whether his attention has been drawn to a press report in the Hindustan Times of 3rd October, 1982 under the heading "Vayudoot is making castles in the air"; and

(d) if so, his reaction in the matter?