

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The post fell vacant on 17.7.1980 and was filled up by an incumbent on a regular and full-time basis with effect from 23.1.1984.

Shortfall in Utilisation of Funds for Specific Projects

954. SHRI B. D. SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been huge shortfall in the utilisation of funds for specific projects during the last several years ; and

(b) the comparative shortfall in the utilisation of funds for specific projects during the last five years stating the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of Lok Sabha in due course.

Decisions taken at the Meeting of Indo Nepal Inter Governmental Committee in June, 1984

955. SHRI ANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the seventh meeting of the Indo-Nepal Inter Governmental Committee on trade, transit and unauthorised trade was held in the first week of June this year ; and

(b) if so, the decisions taken thereat to promote mutual trade and especially to effective by prevent illegal trade and smuggling across the borders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following decisions were taken to promote mutual trade and to prevent illegal trade and smuggling across the borders :

- (1) The procedure for the supply of quota of essential commodities to Nepal has been simplified.
- (2) It has been agreed, in principle, to levy the same rate of counter-vailing excise duty for specific industrial manufactures of Nepal as applicable to units in India.
- (3) Government of India has allowed entry of Nine new Nepalese manufactured products eligible for preferential entry into India bringing the total of this category to 47. Out of these 47 products, 19 products are exempted from proforma procedures.
- (4) It has been decided to undertake shortly to Joint Study of the possibilities of encouraging the growth of production capacities of Nepal including joint ventures and harness them to its developmental and export efforts.
- (5) Further strengthening of close co-operation at different levels, with a view to having regular review of the trends in unauthorised trade.
- (6) Strengthening of vigilance on both sides of the border, so as to monitor and check unauthorised trade, including trafficking in narcotic drugs.
- (7) More meaningful and regular exchange of information regarding unauthorised trade on items considered sensitive by other side, which require to be re-defined.
- (8) Exchange of information in respect of activities of smugglers engaged in unauthorised trade.