

and propose to make substantial investment in the industry, and both sectors therefore contribute to the concerted effort to build up the tourist infrastructure. There is no proposal to transfer the public sector hotels now functioning in the country to the private sector. On the contrary, the public sector chain will be substantially expanded in the years to come.

Arrest of Foreigners involved in smuggling activities

5456. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of foreigners arrested from January, 1972 to October, 1972 for the alleged smuggling of articles out of the country; and

(b) the names of the countries to which they belong and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) 21 foreigners were arrested from January, 1972 to October, 1972 for the alleged smuggling of articles out of country.

(b) The countries to which they belonged are:—

Canada

Austria

U.S.A.

Indonesia

Malaysia

Ceylon

Britain

West Germany

Switzerland

Apart from the adjudication proceedings under the Customs Act for confiscation of goods attempted to be

smuggled out of the country and imposition of penalties on the persons concerned, 5 of the arrested persons on prosecution under the Customs Act were convicted. The prosecution proceedings against one person are pending. 13 persons were handed-over to the police authorities for action under the Passport and/or the Excise Act. Enquiries against rest of the persons are in progress.

Trade Agreement with Algeria

5457. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a trade agreement has been signed recently between Algeria and India; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Seizure of smuggled articles on airports in the country

5458. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the articles seized by the Customs authorities at the various airports of the country during the period January to October, 1972;

(b) the total value of the articles in Rupees; and

(c) the number of smugglers arrested during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b).