

States which are willing to accept and lift the same immediately, or earmarking the same to be sold through the mills' own retail shops.

Fall in the Export of non-traditional Indian Products

699. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of non-traditional Indian products have gone down during 1972-73 as compared to the previous year; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) No, Sir. The overall exports of non-traditional items have increased during the first five months of the current financial year as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) Does not arise.

Smuggling of goods to and from Sri Lanka

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

(a) whether Government are aware that smuggling on a large scale is going on between India and Sri Lanka, and

(b) if so, the positive measures Government are taking to curb the smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Government are aware that there is some smuggling of articles like chillies, Indian textiles, plastic goods and Bidi leaves to Sri Lanka, and articles like cloves, nutmegs, mace, Nylon Fishing nets from Sri Lanka to India.

(b) The following measures have been taken to combat such smuggling:—

(i) Sea Patrols are conducted with launches by the sea base parties stationed in the

important centres on the East coast;

(ii) The coastal areas are guarded by mobile preventive parties equipped with fast moving vehicles: In the hinterland patrols are conducted in the strategic and vulnerable road junctions for intercepting suspected vehicle.

(iii) There is net work of intelligence officers under the charge of two Superintendents who are posted at head-quarters for processing and co-ordinating the intelligence reports received from various sources.

(iv) A conference of Customs and Police Officers of India and Sri Lanka was held recently in January, 1973 where it was decided that intelligence should be exchanged freely between the officers of both countries at appropriate level in the interest of effective co-ordination for the purpose of prevention of smuggling.

Visit by Central Team to drought affected areas in Madhya Pradesh

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

(a) whether a high-power central team visited the drought-affected areas of Madhya Pradesh recently; and

(b) if so, the main contents of the report of the team and the quantum of aid granted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) A Central team is presently visiting the State for an on-the-spot assessment of the situation and to fix ceilings of expenditure on relief measures for purposes of Central assistance.

(b) The report of this team has not yet been received.