

However, S.T.C. as the canalising agency was asked to review the procedure for importing rags with a view to ensure that the malpractice of importing wearable garments in the garb of rags did not recur.

Value of goods being smuggled into India

910. SHRI BIJOY MODAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any details are available with the Government regarding the value of goods and materials smuggled into the country;

(b) if so, what are they;

(c) whether Government have been able to find out the methods of the smuggling operation, if so, the broad outlines thereof; and

(d) what are the steps taken or contemplated by the Government to meet this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). It is not practicable to make a reliable estimate of the value of the goods smuggled into the country either on the basis of the figures of seizures of contraband goods or on any other basis. However, the Study Team of Leakage of Foreign Exchange through Invoice Manipulation had estimated in June, 1971 that the annual consumption of illegal foreign exchange of Finance smuggling would be of the order of Rs. 160 to 170 crores. The smuggling of gold, which accounted for a major part of total smuggling, has almost stopped recently.

(c) Earlier the *modus operandi* adopted by the smugglers was to smuggle goods by concealment in packages, in baggage, on person and in vessels and other conveyance participating in international traffic. The

points of smuggling were the ports and airports and the adjoining areas. Lately, however, large consignments worth several lakhs of rupees are shipped from Dubai by fast moving launches for being landed at various points along the West Coast of India.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to prevent smuggling and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard are as follows:—

Systematic collection and follow-up of information, keeping a watchful eye on the suspected smugglers, rummaging of suspected vessels or aircraft, and checking of vulnerable sectors along the coast and the land frontiers. Additional launches and vehicles are being provided from time to time for effective interception, prevention, etc. Some senior officers of the rank of Collectors of Customs, Additional Collectors of Customs and Assistant Collectors of Customs have been posted in vulnerable areas to look after anti-smuggling work exclusively. Customs Act, 1962 has been amended making additional provisions to take special measures for the purchase of checking illegal import and export of certain commodities and facilitating their detention. The position is kept under constant review.

The question of augmenting anti-smuggling staff and acquiring fast sea going craft is under active consideration. A Bill has been introduced in Lok Sabha to amend the relevant provisions of the Customs Act to provide deterrent punishment for smuggling offences.

Communication facilities at major Indian Airports

911. SHRI CHANDRA BHAL MANI TIWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether communication facilities at major Indian airports are ineffective and primitive;

(b) whether any steps are being taken to improve/modernise the communication facilities at these airports; and

(c) if so, the nature of steps being taken?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) to (c). Modernisation of communication facilities is a continuous process and efforts are being made to improve facilities consistent with operational requirements and availability of resources. Some of the salient features of the Fifth Five Year Plan proposals in this behalf are:-

- (i) Improvement in the coverage of communication facilities between the ground Air Traffic Controllers and pilots.
- (ii) modernisation of the long and medium distance radio communication circuits
- (iii) change of mode of transmission from double side-band to single side-band for air radio telephone communication channels between aerodromes.
- (iv) utilisation of microwave links for speech circuits instead of landlines; and
- (v) introduction of automatic relay equipment for message handling.

Stoppage of Overtime Allowance to Employees working in Indian Airlines and Air India

912. SHRI CHANDRA BHAL MANI TIWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Third Pay Commission has recommended stoppage of Overtime Allowance in respect of certain categories of staff of the Central Government;

(b) if so, whether this aspect is also being considered for application in respect of the employees of the same categories working in the Indian Airlines and Air India; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) The Third Pay Commission has recommended *inter alia* that the system of overtime allowance should be withdrawn in respect of categories and establishments to which the practice was extended subsequent to the recommendations of the Second Pay Commission. For the categories which would become ineligible for overtime, a system of compensatory offs and payment of honoraria, subject to certain restrictions, has been recommended. The recommendations of the Commission are under examination.

(b) and (c). Air-India and Indian Airlines are statutory bodies established under the Air Corporations Act, 1953 and the recommendations of the Pay Commission do not apply to them.

Measures to ensure safety of passengers travelling by Indian Airlines flights

914. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

SHRI VASANT SATHE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) when the report of the comprehensive inquiry into the air accident near Delhi airport on 31st May, 1973 is expected to be received by Government; and

(b) what measures are proposed to be taken, in the meantime, to ensure the safety of the passengers travelling by Indian Airlines flights?