

PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c). In order that sale of confiscated goods does not affect the goods produced indigenously the prices of such goods are kept in view while fixing the prices at which confiscated goods are sold. The quantum of smuggled goods sold being not large, the sale of such goods is also not likely to affect materially the indigenous industry.

As regards the study to find out items whose smuggling can be reduced by the adjustment of excise duties on such items, it may be stated that whereas no such regular study on this subject has been made, the consideration of checking of smuggling is generally kept in view while adjusting excise duties on different products. A number of items have been identified which are being manufactured predominantly in the small scale sector for which comparable goods were being smuggled into India. In order to provide quality goods and at cheaper prices so as to obviate the smuggling of and competition from foreign goods, efforts have been made to boost up production of these items. These measures together with other steps to combat smuggling have had a beneficial effect on indigenous industry.

Study to reduce Smuggling of Articles

1171. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been made to reduce smuggling activities by allowing exports through authorised channels or by adjustment of export duties; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b). Export Trade Control policy generally provides for exports where such exports do not adversely affect the country's wealth or the internal availability of essential supplies. The

policy in this regard and export duties are under constant review to secure maximum foreign exchange return. It may, however, be mentioned that as illicit exports are attempted for illegally acquiring foreign exchange abroad, reduction of export duties, would have limited impact on smuggling activities.

Alleged Mismanagement in Vijaya Bank Limited

1172. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the mismanagement going on in Vijaya Bank Limited ;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the 1975 balance-sheet of the said bank was manipulated which the share-holders had pointed out in General Body meeting ; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c). Government have received complaints from Vijaya Bank Employees Union against the Vijaya Bank Ltd. that it was patronising its employees' association affiliated to R.S.S./Jana Sangh cadres in various ways and, from the shareholders, alleging *inter alia*, that the bank has manipulated its balance sheet for the year 1975.

The allegations are being looked into by the Reserve Bank of India.

Development of Tourism in Malabar Area

1173. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Malabar area in Kerala is an attractive tourist spot; and