

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) India has granted Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to all our neighbouring countries viz. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and all these countries except Pakistan have accorded MFN status to India on a reciprocal basis. Government have taken up with Pakistan the issue of their according MFN status to India.

Seizure of Gold

3255. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gold, foreign currency or other contraband articles have been seized from passengers/aircraft crew members at Calicut Airport during the last three years; and

(b) if so the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The details of contraband goods seized from passengers at Calicut Airport during the last three years are as under:-

Year	Value of Seizure (Rs. in lakhs)		
	Gold	Foreing Currencies	Others
1994-95	172.92	291.39	33.57
1995-96	339.76	130.51	22.85
1996-97	256.42	152.79	2.49

(upto 28.2.97)

There has been no case of involvement of aircraft crew member of Calicut during the last three years.

[*Translation*]

Japanese Assistance for Economic Development

3256. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has offered its assistance to India for the economic development of the country;

(b) if so, the details of terms and conditions thereof, and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Japan has offered ¥ 132,746 million for the following 11 projects for 1996-97 OECF loan assistance:-

Projects	(in million Yen)
1. Northern India Transmission System Project	8,497
2. West Bengal Transmission System Project	11,087
3. Umiyam Hydro Power Station Renovation Project	1,700
4. Tuirial Hydro-electric Power Station Project	11,695
5. Simhadri Thermal Power Station Project	19,817
6. Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project	14,760
7. Calcutta Transport Infrastructure Development Project	10,679
8. Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project	15,968
9. Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project	13,324
10. Kerala Water Supply Project	11,997
11. Rajghat Canal Irrigation Project	13,222

The rate of interest for projects at S.Nos. 1-7 and 11 is 2.3% per annum while for S.Nos. 8-10 is 2.1% per annum. The repayment period is 30 years with a moratorium of 10 years.

(c) The loan agreements between the Governments of India and Japan for all the above projects were signed on 25.2.1997.

[*English*]

Joint-Ventures and Investment Agreement with Asian and European Companies

3257. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Commission is launching a new programme "Asia Invest", designed to promote the development of mutually beneficial trading relationship and investment ties between Asia and European companies; and

(b) if so, how far the new scheme is likely to boost Indo-EC trade and promote the establishment of joint ventures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir. The European Commission is launching a new programme, "Asia Invest" designed to promote development of mutually