

(a) whether any talks were held recently with the neighboring countries on increase in smuggling activities across the border;

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks held; and

(c) the details of the steps agreed to by the Governments of the neighboring countries to check smuggling activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Japanese Assistance for Projects In Karnataka

1715. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has approached the Union Government to pose some projects for financial aid package from OECF, Japan;

(b) if so, the projects for which the agreement has been reached; and

(c) the amount released for each of these projects so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a): Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c): Government of Japan have extended a Loan Assistance of Yen 16,050 million for CLUMP project of Karnataka Government. Loan Agreement in this regard was signed on 13.6.1991.

Another project of Karnataka, namely

'Karnataka Tourism Project' which was not picked up by Government of Japan in earlier two years, has again been posed for 1992 OECF Loan Package. The decision of the Government of Japan for this project will be announced at the Aid-India Consortium meeting to be held in May, 1992.

[Translation]

Incentives on Export of Carpets

1716. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have withdrawn the incentives being given to the carpet manufacturers at present on the export of carpets;

(b) whether Government propose to formulate any scheme for promoting the export of carpets; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) As a general policy, export incentives viz. cash compensatory support and Exim-scrips have been withdrawn for all exportable items which include carpets. However, the scheme of duty draw-back, and import of raw wool at concessional rate of duty and pre-shipment credit for 180 days would continue to be applicable to the carpet exports.

(b) and (c) For promoting the export of handknotted carpets abroad, the following steps have been proposed to be taken during 1992-93:

(1) To expose Indian Carpets by participating in the following International Fairs:-

(a) Domotex International Trade Fair, Hannover (Germany).