

of Amar Nath in view of visit of lakhs of pilgrims every year especially in view of the disastrous unfortunately tragedy of last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be started and completed indicating the amount sanctioned for this purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) There is already a motorable road from Jammu to Anantnag (Khanabal)-Pahalgam-Chandanwari. From Chandanwari to holy Cave at Amarnath, a 32 Km. track exists. The Government of Jammu & Kashmir have taken necessary steps to improve the track enroute to Amarnath Cave. Keeping in view the recommendations made by Dr. Sengupta Committee in this regard. The State Planning Department has provided funds to the tune of Rs. 1.28 crores for maintenance/repair of Khanabal-Chandanwari Road. The track from Chandanwari to Holy Cave, including the bridges enroute have been repaired, and maintained properly.

#### Extradition Treaty .

2405. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed extradition treaty with Hong Kong before it was handed over to China;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement;

(c) whether this agreement has been ratified by the Chinese Government now in occupation of Hong Kong; and

(d) the total number of extradition treaties entered into and to what extent these have helped India in curbing extremist activities operating outside the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) Yes Sir, India has signed extradition treaty with Hong Kong on 28.6.1997.

(b) Sir, The agreement would provide a broad legal basis and procedural mechanisms to enable each country

to arrest and extradite fugitive offenders, both accused or convicted of offences agreed to under its provisions.

In urgent cases, the agreement provides for the provisional arrest of a fugitive offender, pending the receipt of formal extradition request, where a request for such provisional arrest is made. This would help prevent fugitive offenders from escaping with an intent to avoid legal action.

The agreement also provides for the surrender of a fugitive offender to another jurisdiction for prosecution or the imposition or enforcement of a sentence. It would work as a deterrent against the conduct of criminal activities.

(c) Sir, according to the Sino-British joint declaration of 1984, extradition treaties concluded by Hong Kong with other countries which are in force on the date of transfer of sovereignty, will continue to be in force even after the transfer. Hence, there is no need for a fresh ratification of the agreement by China.

(d) Yes Sir, India has signed extradition treaties with Canada, U.K., Nepal, Bhutan, Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, USA and Hong Kong. Apart from these countries, India also has extradition arrangements with Tanzania, Australia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Thailand, Germany and Sweden, having extended the application of the Indian Extradition Act to these countries.

Sir, extradition treaties have helped India in receiving back for trial some notorious criminals involved in grave crimes/extremist activities, namely Shri Om Prakash Srivastava and Babloo Srivastava from Singapore, Shri Daya Singh Lahoria and his wife Suman from USA. The extradition of Shri M.I. Brodia has also been cleared by US authorities. In addition the agreements concluded would provide a legal basis for seeking extradition of fugitive offenders required in India. In the absence of such agreement, it would be difficult to legally enforce or process our requests to foreign states.

#### Import and Smuggling of Whisky

2406. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a study conducted by United Distillers, an international distiller stating that Indians consume about 32 million cases of whisky per year making India the second largest consumer of this brand of alcohol;

(b) if so, the quantity of whisky imported, smuggled in and indigenously produced, separately;