

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Bombay have bursted a racket indulging in undervaluing German made imported cars and later selling them at a high price thus evading Customs duty to the tune of crores of rupees:

(b) if so, the details of the persons arrested in this connection;

(c) the details of fictitious deals made by them during the last three years; and

(d) the action Government contemplated against them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). The Officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have recently detected evasion of Customs duty by way of mis-declaration of cubic capacity and value of "Audi" make cars, at the time of importation. The Customs duty evaded is approximately Rs. 1.32 crores. During the last three years, 25 such cars have been seized and four cars have been detained. However, no arrests have been made so far. The matter is still under investigation. The modus operandi adopted was to import cars by using the names of the persons eligible for Customs Clearance Permits for the import of cars and thereafter sell them at a premium.

(d) The persons found involved are liable for penalty in departmental proceedings and are liable for prosecution in Courts of Law in suitable cases. Such persons are also liable for detention under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974, if considered necessary.

[*Translation*]

Restrictions on Tourists in N.E. Region

5749. SHRIMATI CHENNUPATI VIDYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to restrictions on the entry of tourists in the North-Eastern region, the tourism industry could not come upto the levels of other States;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to encourage tourism in these North-Eastern States; and

(c) whether Government have received any representations from these States in this regard and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Recently Central Government have relaxed restrictions on the entry of tourists in some areas of North Eastern region. Promotional efforts to Tourism development programmes are also being stepped up in the region.

[*English*]

Construction of Tourist Complex In Hazaribagh (Bihar)

5750. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct a tourist complex under India Tourism Development Corporation at Tillya Dam, Damodar Valley Corporation, Bihar;

(b) if so, whether a study team of experts is proposed to be appointed for ascertaining potential for tourism development there; and

(c) whether any steps are proposed to be taken for providing transport facility to tourists upto Hazari Bagh National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary Koderma, Surya Kund in