

(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

Berkatta, Jain Temple at Pavapuri, Einthori Bhadrakali temple, Petro, Kakolat and Usri-Water falls and Dumduma Architecture (Satgavan) Rajgir Tourist Centre and for providing Tourist Guides at all these places?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The development of tourism infrastructure, including provision of transport facilities within the State is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, the Department of Tourism, Government of India, assists the State Governments by organising Tourist Guide Courses (through the Regional Tourist Offices of the Government of India) in consultation with the State Government concerned

Measures to check Bank Frauds

5751 SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN
SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHU-
RIA:
SHRI RAJMANGAL MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the precautionary measures taken by the banks to check defrauding by their employees/officers in the initial stages itself;

(b) whether Government have examined the effectiveness of these measures in checking such bank frauds;

(c) if so, with what results;

(d) whether Government propose to take more stringent measures to check bank frauds; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Banks have books of instructions indicating precautions/checks which their staff should observe to prevent occurrence/recurrence of frauds. Banks are taking steps to strengthen the control mechanisms including the internal audit/inspection machinery and to make them effective so as to eliminate the scope for frauds and malpractices. Banks have been taking a serious view of irregularities committed by its employees and initiate action to inflict punishment befitting the seriousness of irregularities on the delinquent employees. They have been taking steps to ensure quicker disposal of departmental enquiries. Banks have reviewed and revamped the vigilance machinery, taken steps to tone up the control and supervision, strengthen management information system, follow-up and inspection/audit arrangements and for clearing the arrears in balancing of books and reconciliation of inter-branch and other accounts on a continuous basis so as to prevent frauds in these areas.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. In all major fraud cases involving Rs. 1 crore and above, Government examine the modus operandi with a view to checking the adequacy of the systems and procedures from the angle of preventing frauds.

(d) and (e). Action Plan for anti-corruption measures have been devised and monitored closely. A particular area of banking operation is selected for study from the angle of preventive vigilance from time to time on an ongoing basis.

Purchased by DGS&D

5752 PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is regional imbalance in the purchases by the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals;