

[English]

There is no problem. In fact, in banks, liaison officers are there, as the hon. Member may be aware. There is a SC/ST Cell in all the banks, where they take up grievances; they take up promotions and they take up recruitment cases also. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

Smuggling Across Indo-Nepal Border

*787. SHRI HARI SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether hashish, bhang, textiles and Chinese pistols are being smuggled into India from Nepal;

(b) if so, the total number of such cases

detected during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken in each case and the preventive steps taken by Government in this regard?

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Instances of smuggling of hashish and textiles from Nepal into India have been detected. However, no case of such smuggling of Bhang and Chinese pistols has been noticed.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

(b) The number of cases of smuggling of hashish and textiles detected during the last three years is given in the table below:

Year	Number of cases	
	Synthetic Fabrics	Hashish
1	2	3
1987	169	112
1988	740	53
1989	546	116

(c) Persons found involved in smuggling of synthetic textiles and hashish are liable for arrest/prosecution and detention under the Preventive Detention Law. Persons involved in smuggling of synthetic textiles are, in addition, liable for penalty in departmental adjudications.

The anti-smuggling agencies remain alert to check smuggling across the land borders including Indo-Nepal border. Close co-ordination is being maintained amongst all the agencies concerned with the prevention of smuggling. The assistance of the

State Administrations is also being taken.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: I would like to know from the hon. Minister the total value and also separately, the value of hashish and synthetic textiles seized by his department?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: I can give figures for the last three years. The total value of synthetic fabrics and hashish, separately, seized by them was to the tune of Rs. 52.65

lakh and 690.90 lakh in 1987, Rs. 138.17 lakh and Rs. 50 lakh in 1988 and Rs. 32 lakh and Rs. 891 lakh in 1989.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Sir, in how many cases the persons involved in smuggling are under arrest and detention and in how many cases, cases have been filed in the court and what is the amount of penalty realised from such persons?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: The details regarding the number of persons arrested, prosecuted and the amount of penalty realised from them in this regard will be made available to the Hon. Member later on.

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: The practice which has been in vogue for years together, is likely to increase because of the conditions prevailing in Nepal. What steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to check its recurrence in future and the extent of success achieved by the Government in this regard?

[*English*]

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Sir, as the hon. Member may be aware, the treaty between Nepal and India expired on 23rd March 1989. There have been discussions. In fact, in a recent discussion between India and Nepal, in March in Kathmandu, the Nepalese Government has given an assurance of cooperation in controlling the unauthorised trade. And we are sure that in the next meeting, this issue will further crystalise.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAYKUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the manner of disposal of all these confiscated items like bhang, hashish, charas, ganja etc. Has it come to the notice of the Government that these confiscated items find their way for sale in the market since these things are replaced by other things. Does the Government propose to destroy the entire lot of confiscated items after their seizure as it is also a serious matter?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Bhang, hashish etc. do not come under narcotics. I would like to request the hon. Member that he may give any suggestion in this regard so that some way or the other could be found out.

[*English*]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, usually smuggling takes place because we are not producing enough in this country. As far as these things are concerned, we are not going to produce them. But in some parts of our forests—I know there are thick forests in some parts of Kerala—plants like ganja, are being planted in areas measuring several hectares. It is an open secret. But such persons are never caught. Persons who may have one or two plants are caught. So, will the hon. Minister take immediate steps to catch all the big fry who are having large plantations in our thick forests?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Our endeavour has always been to catch all sizes of fish. But I take the suggestion of the hon. Member in the right spirit. The thrust will be more on the larger fish.

Visit of US Delegation

*788. **SHRI ANARDHANAPOOJARY:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a US delegation visited India in February, 1990 to explore the possibilities of joint ventures; and

(b) if so, the areas identified by the group for joint ventures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ANANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Mr. Richard F. Celeste, Governor, State of Ohio visited India from February 15-23, 1990. Synchronising with Governor's visit a