

up during the current year are completed. These works are expected to be completed by middle of 1982.

Memorandum from Tobacco Growers for withdrawal of Central Excise Dues

*405. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received a memorandum from the Co-ordination Committee of Tobacco Growers and Small Dealers (Andhra Pradesh) asking for withdrawal of Central Excise dues, due from the Tobacco Growers of Andhra Pradesh for the period prior to 1-3-79 i.e. the date from which Central Excise duty on un-manufactured tobacco was withdrawn; and

(b) if so, whether Government have considered their request in view of the losses suffered by the tobacco growers as a result of cyclones and floods between 1977 and 1979?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have considered the matter but they have not found it possible to withdraw the demands for central excise duty outstanding against the growers.

Sale of Smuggled Goods in Agartala

*406. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Agartala smuggled goods such as, watches, T.V. sets, tape recorders and synthetic goods are sold openly in plenty;

(b) whether these goods are being smuggled from Bangladesh into Agartala through 900 km. long international border; and

(c) if so, what preventive actions Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b). Reports received by Government do not indicate any large scale and open sale of smuggled items such as T.V. sets, Tape-recorders etc. in Agartala. However, the Customs authorities have effected seizures of smuggled goods such as readymade garments, synthetic fabrics, transistors and calculators at Agartala. The value of the goods seized during the years 1978 to 1980 is given below:—

| Year | Value in Rupees |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1978 | 60,300 |
| 1979 | 37,245 |
| 1980 | 11,215 |
| (upto May) | |

Enquiries show that these goods had been mainly smuggled across the Indo-Bangladesh border.

(c) Anti-smuggling measures have been intensified along the Indo-Bangladesh border and Customs field formations and the Border Security Force have been alerted to prevent any attempts at smuggling across the border.

Import of Trawlers

2916. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trawlers imported by each of the Industrial houses and concerns engaged in fisheries and the cost thereof; and

(b) whether India has recently lost some world markets for the export of their 'fisheries'; if so, the reasons therefor?