

Smuggling of Essential Commodities through Gujarat Rajasthan Border near Pakistan

*259. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD:
SHRI CHANDRA PAL
SHAILANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to smuggling of essential commodities such as Sugar, Kerosene, diesel, etc. through Gujarat—Rajasthan border near Pakistan as reported in a section of the press;

(b) if so, steps taken to check the smuggling of these commodities;

(c) whether any persons involved in the activity have been arrested; and

(d) whether the Gujarat Government have been alerted to keep a vigil over the border?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Reports received by the Government do not indicate any large-scale smuggling of essential commodities, such as Sugar, Kerosene, Diesel, etc., into Pakistan across the Gujarat-Rajasthan border.

(b) and (d) The Central Government and the Government of Gujarat have alerted the concerned Customs authorities, the Border Security Force and the Police authorities to prevent any attempted smuggling of these items across the border.

(c) No, Sir.

Indo-Nepalese machinery for promotion of Tourism

*260. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for

establishing a joint Indo-Nepalese machinery for the promotion of tourism; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) and (b) Close cooperation already exists between India and Nepal in the field of tourism promotion through the membership of the two countries in the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) as well as its Commission for South Asia. A marketing programme is being drawn up by the Commission for joint promotion of tourism to and within the region, which will benefit both India and Nepal as well as the 5 other member countries namely, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Iran and Sri Lanka. In view of this there is no proposal under consideration for establishing separate Indo-Nepal machinery for promotion of tourism.

New Projects Approved by UNDP

*261. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has approved several new projects to promote technical development in India; and

(b) if so, the nature of projects, the financial assistance from UNDP and the location of the projects sanctioned?

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

(b) Statement giving nature, location and UNDP financial assistance of the projects approved from 1st January 1979 to 25th March 1980 is laid on the Table of the House.