

This clandestine operation has been going on in Madras port as well as in Singapore. I would like to know in this connection whether the Ministry has made any effort, after this question has been received, to find out the racket, due to this, whether, we are losing all the markets, who are the persons involved in this in South India. I would also like to know whether during the course of investigation of this fraud, any details in connection with other frauds like insurance, over-invoicing and under-invoicing and other trade manipulations, have come to light and if so, what are the reasons why action has not been taken. It is also reported that one Sikh is the brain behind all these things and is operating successfully. If all the incriminating documents have been seized during a raid of a mill-owner's house in North India, why is it that the officials have not taken any action in this regard? I would like to know whether it is a fact.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The hon. Member framed his question on the basis of a report in the *Blitz*. His question was relating to a Delhi-based company. That is why I replied with reference to the question whether any Delhi-based company is involved in it or not.

But while looking into the matter, I came to know that there is one company, which is involved in this. It is not Delhi-based, but Madras-based, viz., M/s. Narayanan & Company. Madras Customs detected it and in fact, 948 drums, which they declared as Deodorised Bleached palm oil, actually, contained coconut oil. Customs confiscated the goods and they imposed penalties. Whatever the legal procedures and formalities are, Madras customs took care of it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Indo-Australian Collaboration in Joint Ventures

*695. **SHRI D. P. JADEJA:** Will

the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussion was held for Indo-Australian Collaboration in joint ventures, consultancy, equipment supply etc. recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement made?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) During the recent visit of the Australian Deputy Prime Minister to India we had expressed our interest in exploring the possibilities of collaboration with Australia for establishing joint ventures.

Pending cases of Income-tax appeals in Delhi

700. KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI: Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases of appeals of income-tax are pending before Appellate Assistant Commissioners of Delhi; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to clear the pending cases and the amount involved in the cases?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The appeals pending with Appellate Assistant Commissioners in Delhi as on 30-6-1980 are 38,160.

(b) The following steps have been taken to clear the pending workload with the Appellate Assistant Commissioners in Delhi:

(i) one post of AAC from Agra was transferred to Delhi in July, 1979;

(ii) on the basis of the work study made in February, 1979 by the Directorate of Organisation and Management Services of the Income-tax Department, augmen-