

Pre-shipment inspection of Commodities covered by export (Quality control and Inspection) Act, 1963

460. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) total number of commodities exported from India which have so far been brought under the ambit of compulsory quality control and pre-shipment inspection under the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963;

(b) total number of private inspection agencies, authorised by the Export Inspection Council in addition to its own Export Inspection Agencies to conduct pre-shipment inspection of the commodities;

(c) steps taken by Government to bring in more commodities under the ambit of the compulsory quality control and pre-shipment inspection so as to assure a third-party guarantee to the foreign buyers in regard to quality of merchandise exported; and

(d) steps being taken to expand the coverage of compulsory quality control and pre-shipment agencies established by the Central Government in order to stop unfair practices indulged in by some private inspection agencies in collusion with exporters?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) So far 831 commodities have been brought under the ambit of the Export (Quality Control & Inspection) Act, 1963.

(b) In addition to Export Inspection Agencies established by the Government under section 7 of the Act, 37 private Inspection Agencies have also been recognised to conduct pre-shipment inspection of commodities covered under the Act.

(c) Proposals for bringing new commodities viz. Machine Tools, Finished

Leather, Food Products, Jute Products, Cashew Nutshell, Ceramic Products, X-Ray Equipments, Rubber Tyres and Tubes etc., to be covered under the ambit of the compulsory quality control and pre-shipment inspection are under consideration of the Government. Before any commodity is brought under the ambit of the Act, consideration is given to the views and objections if any from the Trade.

(d) The performance of the private Inspection Agencies is kept under constant watch by the Export Inspection Council. A proposal to amend the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 is under consideration—this includes provisions for more stringent penalties for contravention of the provisions of the Act and new powers conferred for search, seizure, confiscation, adjudication and penalty.

Persons of I. A. involved in smuggling of goods at Delhi

*462. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether it is a fact that some persons of the Indian Airlines were recently found involved in the smuggling of goods at Delhi;

(b) if so, details thereof, stating the number of the persons arrested, if any, the nature of the goods seized and the estimated value thereof; and

(c) the number of the persons belonging to the Indian Airlines found involved in the smuggling of goods during the last one year stating their modus operandi and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) to (c). I lay a statement showing the details.