

hat after meeting the domestic consumption satisfactorily, the surplus may be exported. I say 'may be' because that also depends upon the price factor and also port outlets which are not very encouraging at the moment.

श्री कमला सिन्घ "मधुकर" : सरकार ने इस सम्बन्ध में ऐसे किन देशों के साथ वार्ता का है, जहाँ कोयले का निर्यात हो सकता है? क्या वे डेवेलपिंग कन्ट्रीज हैं, या सोशलिस्ट मुल्क हैं, या आलरेडी डेवेलप्ड मुल्क हैं?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : Those countries are our neighbours like Bangladesh, Burma and Nepal.

Harassment to Members of Indian Hockey team by customs

*695. **SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOHKI :**

SHRI RAM HEDAOO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether members of Indian Hockey Team were harassed by the customs officials when they arrived at Madras Airport after winning the World Cup Hockey Tournament ;

(b) whether they had to pay more than Rupees fifty thousands as duty on articles, a portion of which has since been refunded; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof and what steps Government propose to take against the officials for harassing those dignitaries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) : Members of the Indian Hockey Team including officials were received with all courtesy and no harassment was caused to them by Customs officials at Madras. On examination of their baggage they were found to have imported articles in excess of their admissible allowances. Accordingly, customs duty of Rs. 42,141/- and a fine of Rs. 10,350/- was imposed on the excess goods. All this took only 45/-minutes.

The members of the team however, did not have money to pay the duty and fine. They were, therefore told that they could bring the amount later and clear the goods. They however decided to wait

till the money was brought from the town. As soon as the money was received and paid the goods were cleared.

On the matter being brought to notice the Government decided that in all the circumstances of the case, the fines paid be refunded.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above the question does not arise.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : क्या माननीय सदस्य के मतलब की चीज उस में भी या नहीं ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI : I would like to know from the Minister (a) by whom the team was received and whether the articles brought by the players of the hockey team were the presents given to them by their friends abroad, (b) whether the Customs authorities had any previous information about this and the contents and whether any checking of their baggage was made while boarding the plane, and (c) whether the team protested against the behaviour of the Customs Officers at Madras, and under what circumstances the fine of Rs. 10,350/- imposed was refunded.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : The plane arrived round about 10 in the Madras airport and those persons were received at the runway itself by their admirers and other people. They appeared at the customs counter round about 10.45. Out of 12 officers posted in the customs, ten officers were earmarked to clear the baggages of these players. They twenty in number and they had 146 baggages. All this was cleared within 45 minutes. It was found that many of them had brought articles worth more than Rs. 500 which is the admissible limit. A view was taken that upto Rs. 1,000 they were to pay only duty, not fine. On the first Rs. 500, no duty; penalty does not arise; upto Rs. 1,000 there was only duty for Rs. 500 and beyond Rs. 1,000, there was penalty at the rate of 50 per cent, not at the usual rate of 100 per cent. They were also told that if the leader or the chairman of the team could provide a consolidated list of the items brought by the players, they would not search the individual baggage and they would make valuation on the list provided by the authorities of the team. But that was not available with them and the result of that was that they had to search the baggages which numbered 146. They were also told that they could take admissible luggage and other personal belongings and come back the next

morning and by paying duty and fine they could clear their goods.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI : He has not replied : under what circumstances the fine was refunded. Have the Government issued instructions to the authorities concerned not to impose any duty or fine on teams coming back after winning?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : So far as refund is concerned, we thought that they had brought some prestige for the country and so far as the question of fine was concerned, we could waive the fine. But so far as duty is concerned, Government cannot take the view that no duty shall be imposed on goods brought by a winning team in excess of what they could do; we cannot take that view.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : May I know whether the players and officials of the team had themselves disclosed the items that were brought or the customs authorities had to find them out by searches? How many were the items which had to be discovered by searches?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : The first proposal was whether the officers of the team could provide a consolidated list of the items brought by the players. They could not give that list. As a result each had to be asked what he had and each gave it and produced other documents. Whatever they said was taken on the face value.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Therefore, there was no search? I am trying to find out whether the players realised that they should disclose and leave it to the Government to decide whether fine should be paid or not.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : I do not think there was any attempt at concealment. They had brought the articles bonafide and unfortunately they had to pay a duty; beyond a certain limit penalty also had to be levied. I hope the House would agree that they may be heroes but heroes should observe the law more than the others.... (Interjections) I do not think there was any attempt at concealment.

विद्यार्थी तथा मध्य प्रदेश के सीमाशुल्क और उत्पादनशुल्क विभाग के अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध शिकायतें

* 699. श्री हुकम चन्द कच्छवाय : क्या वित्त मंत्री विद्यार्थी तथा मध्य प्रदेश में सीमाशुल्क और उत्पादन शुल्क विभाग में नियुक्त अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध शिकायतों के बारे में 21 मार्च, 1975 के अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 4459 के उत्तर के संबंध में यह बनाने को कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार को मिला, 24 शिकायतों में से विद्यार्थी, ससद सदस्यों और जनता से अलग-अलग कितनी-कितनी शिकायतें मिली हैं और जिन अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध शिकायतें की गई हैं उनके नाम, पदनाम और श्रेणी क्या हैं; और

(ख) प्रत्येक अधिकारी के विरुद्ध उक्त शिकायतें क्या हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Of the 24 complaints, 14 were found to be anonymous or pseudonymous, 5 originated from the Members of the Public and the remaining 5 from the Members of the Staff. None of the 9 complaints in which investigations have been completed so far, have revealed any serious lapses on the part of the officers warranting regular departmental proceedings against them. In 6 of these cases, the charges have been found to be baseless and in the remaining 3 cases, a warning has been issued to the officers concerned only for certain technical lapses. It will not be in the interest of administration and morale of the Services to furnish at this stage particulars of officers against whom complaints have been received. As already indicated in reply to the previous Unstarred questions, the allegations made were about corrupt practices and departmental irregularities.

श्री हुकम चन्द कच्छवाय : जो विवरण ससद पटल पर रखा गया है उस में इस बात का उल्लेख नहीं है और इन तथ्यों को छिपाया है कि