

International Cashew Community

*455. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal to set up an International Cashew Community with representation from African countries of Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique has been approved; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Smuggling of goods from Nepal

*456. SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 62 on 21st February, 1975 regarding anti-smuggling drive and state .

(a) whether facts about the report of smuggling from Nepal published in 'Campus Reporter' in its January number published from B-3/14, Model Town, New Delhi and printed at Sagar Printers, 3842, Mandi Tel, Paharganj, New Delhi were inquired into, if so, facts revealed after such inquiry.

(b) steps taken against the persons concerned and the agencies connected with such Indo-Nepal smuggling operation via Patna or other parts of Bihar; and

(c) whether the name of the 'handsome Central Minister' as mentioned in the report could be identified, if so, facts thereabout?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) (a) and (b) : 35 girls, two men and a lady arrived at Patna Airport by RNAC flight No RA-223 on 11th October, 1974 from Kathmandu. Their baggage was checked by the

Customs Staff but no contraband or dutiable goods were found. Enquiries revealed that the group was travelling under arrangements made by one Travel Promotion Bureau, New Delhi. However, efforts to locate the office of the said Travel Agency have so far been unsuccessful.

Persons found concerned with Indo-Nepal smuggling (as elsewhere in India) are arrested and proceeded against for contravention of the law. Prosecution in Courts of Law is also launched wherever warranted.

(c) No Sir, the question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Expansion and Modernisation of Units in Woolen Industry

*457. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for the expansion and modernisation of units in the Woolen Industry in the country,

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATOPADHYAYA) : (a) and (b) The following schemes have been formulated from time to time in regard to the various sectors of the woollen industry :

(1) Expansion of priority units in the worsted sector.

(2) Vertical Integration of hosiery units.

(3) Modernisation of hosiery units.

(4) Creation of additional combing capacity.

(5) Integration of shoddy spinning units.

(c) No investment by Government is envisaged and hence no allocation of funds have been made.