

procedures, better staff relations and reduction in overtime; and

- (iii) ensuring definite improvements in the content and quality of customer service.

Chinese Ship Found Involved in Smuggling Activities

*154. SHRI K. MALLANNA : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Customs Authorities had impounded a Chinese Ship 'Waglan Island', at Cochin for indulging in smuggling activities; and

(b) if so, the particulars regarding the persons found guilty of the charges of smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) :

(a) M. V. Waglan Island, belonging to M/s. Hongkong Island Shipping Co., Hongkong was seized by Cochin Customs on 21-5-1975 for indulging in smuggling activities.

(b) So far Mr. Li Chi Wing, master of the vessel, Waglan Island and Mr. Sze Wan Cheng, Second Bosuncum-Steward have been found guilty smuggling. The case against other suspects is under examination.

Steps to Boost Export of Coffee

*155. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the steps Government have taken to boost the export of Indian Coffee to other countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : The steps taken to boost export of Indian Coffee include :

- (i) Participation in Trade Fairs and Exhibitions abroad to popularise Indian Coffee.

(ii) Release of advertisements in Foreign Trade Journals about Indian Coffee in potential coffee consuming countries of the World.

(iii) Increased direct exports of coffee by Coffee Board both to traditional and non-traditional markets.

(iv) Export of Coffee in the form of instant coffee.

देश में सोने का लाया जाना

*156. श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या राजस्व और बैंकिंग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या हाल ही में देश में सोने के लाये जाने पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाने के लिये कोई कदम उठाये गये हैं ; और

(ख) क्या सरकार सोने के प्रति लोगों के सहज आकर्षण को कम करने के लिये कोई योजना बना रही है ?

राजस्व और बैंकिंग विभाग के प्रभारी राज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रगब कुमार मुखर्जी) :

(क) तस्करी के माल एवं सोने के चोरी छिपे लाने को रोकने के लिये, सारे समुद्र तट और स्थल सीमाओं के साथ साथ पूर्ण रूप से निवारक जांच पड़ताल तेज कर दी गयी है। निवारक और प्रामूचना कर्मचारियों को, विशेष रूप से भारत-पाक सीमा पर सावधान कर दिया गया है और देश में सोने को चोरी छिपे लाने की सम्भावना के विरुद्ध अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डों पर जांच तेज कर दी गयी है।

(ख) स्वर्ण नियंत्रण अधिनियम के अन्तर्गत, किसी व्यक्ति द्वारा शुद्ध सोना रखने पर पूर्णरूप से रोक लगी हुई है। स्वर्ण की वस्तुएं और स्वर्ण मुद्राएं, बिना घोषणा-पत्र दाखिल किये, 50 ग्राम की निर्धारित सीमा से अधिक नहीं रखी जा सकती। इन पाबन्दियों और साथ ही आय

कर प्राधिकारियों के छापाँ का यह प्रभाव पड़ता है कि लोग स्वर्ण के रूप में काले धन को रखने के लिये निरुत्साहित होते हैं ।

Ceiling on Gold Ornaments

*158. SHRI VASANT SATHE : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to impose ceiling on holding of gold ornaments by an individual/family;

(b) if so, the main features of the proposal; and

(c) what other steps are taken/proposed to be taken to curb the lure for holding the 'yellow metal'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE-IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) :

(a) No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under the Gold Control Act possession of primary gold by any person is completely banned. Gold articles including coins can not be possessed beyond the prescribed limit of 50 gms. without filing a declaration. These restrictions together with raids by Income Tax authorities act as a factor discouraging people to keep black money in the form of gold. Inflation has been contained and the rates of interest paid by the banks to depositors have gone up considerably in the recent years.

Domestic Tourism

*159. SHRI DHAMANKAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM and CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) What steps are being taken to promote domestic tourism in the country;

(b) What are the proposals to make home tourism broad-based to achieve

national integration by folk culture and art ;

(c) how many spots and complexes and in which States are proposed to be developed as holiday resorts and tourist centres; and

(d) the facilities that would be provided to the home tourists, so as to attract lower and middle income group people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) to (d). According to the broad division of responsibilities as outlined in the draft Fifth Plan document on Tourism, it is envisaged that the Centre would invest in projects which are intended primarily to stimulate international tourism with a view to earning foreign exchange, while the State Governments would concentrate on the development of facilities for domestic tourism. Therefore, the promotion of domestic tourism and development of allied facilities in the country would fall within the purview of State Governments. Nevertheless, to cater to the needs of middle and low income group tourists the Department of Tourism is putting up supplementary accommodation at a number of places of tourist importance in the country, in the form of youth hostels, tourist bungalows, forest lodges and camping sites which can be used by domestic tourists as well.

The emphasis in the Fifth Five Year Plan of the India Tourism Development Corporation, a public-sector undertaking, is also on expanding the infrastructure for middle income tourists.

The private sector is also encouraged to set up more hotels including those of the 3-star category and below which can cater to middle and low income group people, by means of various incentives offered in the form of fiscal reliefs, financial assistance in the form of institutional loans, priority consideration for essential requirements, etc.