

sive and the next meeting is going to be held in Kathmandu on 29th August 1976, any difficulties experienced in our previous talks are also inconclusive and it will serve no purpose when the next meeting is scheduled so shortly.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY rose

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Pandeyji, this is a delicate matter.

MR. SPEAKER: You take help from Mr. Banerjee.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: What is the quantum of trade between India and Nepal so far as exports and imports are concerned?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: In the year 1973-74 the exports from India to Nepal were Rs. 2889 lakhs. Imports from Nepal were Rs. 1299 lakhs and the balance of trade in favour of India was Rs. 1590 lakhs. In 1974-75 exports from India were Rs. 4240 lakhs and imports from Nepal were Rs. 1930 lakhs and the balance of trade in favour of India was Rs. 2310 lakhs.

MR. SPEAKER: No more question?

Next question—Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh—not here.

Shri Chandra Gowda.

International Cooperation to Check Smuggling

*66. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought any international co-operation to ensure complete check on smuggling into India from abroad, particularly of opium; and

(b) if so, the particulars regarding measures adopted by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). There is very little smuggling of opium from abroad into India except that some stray cases of opium smuggling from across the Indo-Pak and Indo-Nepal border have come to notice. The Government is, however, alert to the situation and has adopted various measures in this regard.

Besides, India is a contracting party to various International Conventions and treaties in the field of drug abuse control and suppression of illicit traffic. Indian representatives also regularly participate in the meetings organised by United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Interpol and Customs Co-operation Council where measures are considering for promotion of closer co-operation amongst Governments in the field of illicit traffic, particularly in drugs

SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: While congratulating the Minister on the steps which he has taken in India, may I know, keeping in view the fact that about 13 Air India workers have been involved in the opium smuggling case and other international institutions have had a hand in it, how does the Government of India coordinate these international anti-smuggling activities? What type of relations has the Government of India with Interpol and the Customs Cooperation Council and how many Indians are working in these international institutions? Is the Government of India happy and satisfied with the way in which these organisations are functioning?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: So far as cooperation in various international forums are concerned I have indicated in the text of my reply that we have representation in these organisations. It has been admitted that so far as production of opium is concerned and its utility under Government control is concerned, the steps taken have been appreciated even by

the United Nations. Regarding the incidents which the hon. Member has mentioned, I indicated to him that there are some stray incidents. But I want to emphasise that India is the only manufacturer of opium legally except Iran and some other countries. We are the largest producer and exporter so far as opium is concerned. But to some extent other types of opium products in the form of hashish and marijuana are coming into the country and whenever such incidents come to our notice we take appropriate action. But so far as control of the drug and preventing abuse of the drug is concerned, we have already taken strong measures and these are continuing.

SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: The Minister was good enough to admit that there is some smuggling of opium through Pakistan and Nepal. In view of the relaxed relations with Pakistan and an excellent relation with Nepal may I know whether the Government has made any negotiations for coordination with these countries to come to an understanding to put down this evil of opium smuggling activities?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: This exercise will be made when the discussion with Nepal takes place about which the Commerce Minister has already indicated in the House. We will have our own representation there. Closest cooperation between these countries is a very important point to be given due consideration. It is true that to some extent ganja is coming from Nepal. We have limited the use of hashish, marijuana etc. It is a fact that we have reduced the use of these types of articles as a result of which certain illegal trafficking is taking place through Indo-Nepal border. But we are alert on it and taking necessary steps.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: The Minister said that our country has the unique distinction of being the only country which is producing it legally.

Therefore, may I know whether the Ministry of Revenue and Banking is thinking in the direction of closing over except that limited quantity that is needed for hygienic and medicinal purposes and of stopping this Indiaa Alkaloids Ltd. which is one of our public sector concerns above 100 per cent production?

In view of the fact that international opinion is very much against us in respect of the smuggling and the export of opium and the alkaloids abroad, are you thinking of banning the production itself?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: I do not agree with the hon. Member that international opinion is against us. On the other hand, the international opinion is in favour of India that they are strictly controlling it. In regard to the utility of it and of having the finished products, we are already having it in Ghazipur and the most sophisticated plant at Neemuch is also on the production.

Development of Beaches as Tourist Centres

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*67. **SHRI VEKARIA:**
SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the beaches in India that have been developed by the Central Government as tourist Centres,

(b) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to develop beaches as tourist centres in Gujarat State; and

(c) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Kovalam near Trivandrum is being developed as a beach resort. It is also proposed to develop beach tourism in Goa in the Central Sector, and some facilities have been provided at Mahabalipuram, also.