

exchange racketeers were detained under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974, under the orders issued by the Central Government and the various State Governments. Out of these, 1723 detenus have been released from detention and 292 such detenus were in actual detention as on 4-6-77.

Proposal to lift Ban on Import of Capital Goods

*97. SHRI M. N. GOVINDA NAIR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the lifting of ban on the import of certain capital goods; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b). It is not proposed to lift the ban on the import of certain capital goods which are indigenously adequately and efficiently manufactured. To safeguard the interests of the indigenous industry is one of the basic objectives of the import policy and no imports to the detriment of the indigenous industry will be allowed.

Release of persons detained under COFEPOSA

*98. SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons were detained under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act by the previous Government;

(b) how many have been released now and how many are in detention as yet;

(c) whether smuggling has increased since the release of detenus; and

(d) if so, what further action is contemplated against them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H.M. PATEL): (a) Till the revocation of internal emergency by the previous Government 275 persons had been detained under the orders of the Central Government, under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974. Out of this, 179 persons were in actual detention.

(b) After the revocation of internal emergency, till 4-6-1977, 164 persons out of those actually detained were released and 16 persons are now in detention.

(c) No Sir, reports received do not indicate increase in smuggling.

(d) Although smuggling continues to be effectively contained, anti-smuggling measures have been reinforced and field formations have been instructed to take stringent action against smugglers under the normal law. The measures include strengthening of investigation and intelligence set-ups, rummaging of ships arriving from sensitive ports and patrolling of vulnerable areas on the sea coast and the main transport routes.

Proposal to construct Airports at Kangra Valley and Simla

*99. SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of foreign tourists visit Dharamsala, Kulu, Manali, Delhousie and other places of tourist interest in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether there is any proposal to construct airports at Kangra Valley and Simla; and

(c) if so, the main features thereof?