

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?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) Dharamsala, Kulu, Manali, Dalhousie and other places of tourist interest in Himachal Pradesh are usually visited by a large number of domestic tourists. However, ever since the opening of certain restricted areas for trekking, a large number of foreign tourists have also started visiting Himachal Pradesh.

(b) and (c). There is no proposal at present to construct an aerodrome in Kangra Valley. Some preliminary studies have been made about the feasibility of constructing an aerodrome at Simla, but due to paucity of funds, the project has been deferred.

Return of Imported Edible Oil by Vanaspati Factories

*100. **SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain vanaspati factories in the country have returned the imported edible oil supplied to them by a Government Agency as it was found to be of inferior standard;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the loss sustained by Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken to dispose of the sub-standard edible oil?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Four vanaspati factories have claimed compensation from the STC, for moisture content in the imported palm oil supplied to them. The claims amount to about Rs. 1,54,550/-. The claims received are under examination by the STC.

(d) There is no sub-standard edible oil with STC for disposal.

Revision of the Statutory Minimum Price of Natural Rubber

769. **SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of the Indian Small Rubber Growers' Association of Kerala has submitted a memorandum demanding revision of the statutory minimum price of natural rubber; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

World Bank Aid to Development of Bombay High

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

(a) whether he paid a visit to Washington recently to get financial aid from the World Bank;

(b) if so, whether India has requested the World Bank to give financial aid for development of Bombay High; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) No, Sir. I visited Washington in the last week of April, 1977 to participate in the meetings of Group of 24 Ministers, the Joint Fund Bank Development Committee and the Interim Committee of Governors of the International Monetary Fund.

(b) and (c). Negotiations relating to 150 million loan from the World Bank for Phase III of the Bombay