

Department of Tourism, Government of India, a Sound and Light show at Shalimar Garden in Srinagar, besides operating its Hotel Jammu Ashok at Jammu. The total expenditure on their 'Upkeep and maintenance' during the last 3 years has been Rs. 8.01 lakhs.

Training women in smuggling business

2312. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a school is run in Bombay train women recruits to the smuggling business in the art of concealing gold;

(b) whether gold pellets were recovered from the stomach in the case of 5 passengers who landed at Calcutta; and

(c) whether unofficial estimate about the unauthorised gold inflow is of the order of 60 to 70 tonnes a year and whether during 1985, the figure exceeded 120 tonnes, resulting in loss of about Rs. 1600 crores to the country in foreign exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Government has no information the running of any school in Bombay where women recruits are trained in smuggling.

(b) The officers of Customs (Preventive) Collectorate, West Bengal, Calcutta, intercepted 5 Indian nationals at Calcutta airport on their arrival from Bangkok by flight No. TG-313, on 2.7.1986. One of them concealed gold inside his rectum whereas other 4 persons carried gold inside their stomach.

(c) No reasonable estimate of the quantum of gold smuggled into the country is feasible. Smuggling being a clandestine activity, does not, by its very nature, lend itself to any quantification.

Demands of coffee growers

2313. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :
SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Union Government that coffee growers have staged an indefinite agitation from 29th March 1986;

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The major demands made by the coffee growers relate to revision of Minimum Release Price, waiver of export duty, more representation to growers in the Board, a growers Member should be the Chairman of the Coffee Board, payment of first instalment equal to minimum Release Price to growers.

Decision regarding revision of Minimum Release Price (MRP) is expected to be taken soon. While imposing export duty it is ensured that the growers remunerative return and exporters profit margin is kept intact and only half of the windfall gain beyond a base price so arrived is charged as export duty.

The composition of Board was reviewed as recently as in August, 1984 to provide more balanced representation. Chairman Coffee Board has to be a Government official with administrative experience who could take an overall view on an issue keeping in mind the various interests involved in coffee Industry.

First payment to growers equal to Minimum Release Price may not be in the interest of coffee growers because the Board will have to arrange for payment through over-drafts at a higher rate of interest which will reduce the payments to growers considerably.

Growth of sericulture in Karnataka

2314. SHRI SHRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :