

"Smuggling of goods to Pakistan"

875. Shri Kolla Venkaiab: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have detected that the smuggling of certain goods and articles to Pakistan is being carried out regularly from certain specific place or places in India;

(b) if so, the persons or groups engaged in smuggling activities;

(c) the goods or articles smuggled and their worth during this year so far; and

(d) the action taken against the smugglers and to prevent further activities?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Available information does not indicate that smuggling from India to Pakistan is being carried out regularly from certain specific place or places.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Information regarding all goods seized while attempting to smuggle them to Pakistan is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) Whenever an offence under the Customs Act is established, penalties provided under the Act are imposed, besides confiscation of the goods. Prosecution is also resorted to in important cases. The Customs staff on the border is alert and a vigilant watch is maintained.

Anti-sea erosion measures in Andhra Pradesh

876. Shri M. S. Murti: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether any anti-sea erosion measures have been taken near Visakhapatnam town in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) and (b). Urgent repairs to the existing damaged sea wall to prevent further erosion, have been undertaken by the State Government. The State Government are also considering to construct a sea wall as a permanent measure to protect Visakhapatnam town from the damage due to sea erosion.

Assistance to Assam

877. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister was apprised of Assam's pressing demands for Central assistance during his recent visit to Assam;

(b) if so, the nature and extent of aid demanded and for what type of projects; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) to (c). The Prime Minister was generally apprised of the Assam Government's pressing demands, which will be examined by the Government of India.

Loan agreement signed with Foreign Countries

878. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the loan agreements signed with different foreign countries and institutions during the period from July to September, 1965;

(b) how much of the loans are non-project loans; and

(c) how much of the loans pledged by the Aid India Consortium have been turned into bilateral agreements?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). Two loan agreements were signed with

foreign countries/Institutions during July to September, 1965. Of these, one was with the International Development Association and was for \$100 million (Rs. 47.62 crores); the other was with the Netherlands and was for 13 million dutch guilders (Rs. 1.71 crores). Both these loans are of the nature of non-project assistance.

(c) Out of a total amount of \$5,472 million (Rs. 2,805.7 crores) pledged so far for the Third Plan, an amount of \$4,359 million (Rs. 2,075.7 crores) has been turned into bilateral agreements.

Lodhi House Hostel, New Delhi

886. Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Will the Minister of Works and Housing be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Lodhi House Hostel, New Delhi has been or is being converted into a hotel;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the purpose for which the hotel will be utilized?

The Minister of Works and Housing (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) Yes. The Lodhi Hostel has been converted into a Hotel and was taken over by the Janpath Hotels Ltd., on the 15th September, 1965.

(b) and (c). There is a great shortage of all classes of hotel accommodation in Delhi. In order to meet the demand for a comparatively cheaper type of hotel in Delhi, it was decided to convert the Lodhi House into a Hotel. The Hotel is intended for the use of all tourists, both Indian and foreign.

Salal Hydro-Electric Project in J. & K.

882. Shri N. E. Laskar: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Salal hydro-electric Project in Kashmir has been taken over by the Central Government for execution; and

(b) if so, the stage at which the Project is at present?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The scheme is still under investigation by the Jammu and Kashmir Government.

Planning Forums

883. Shri Krishna Deo Tripathi: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Forums established in universities and colleges have been effectively instrumental in making the student community plan conscious and in seeking their active participation in developmental programmes;

(b) the further steps Government propose to take to strengthen and activate these forums in the context of present emergency; and

(c) whether Government propose to make Planning Forum a compulsory part of co-curricular life of universities and colleges and mobilise their services in the drive for food production?

The Minister of Planning (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Planning Forums have been advised to take up special programmes consisting of promotion of national solidarity and communal harmony, relief and rehabilitation, blood donation and Volunteers Corps for civil defence.

(c) The Planning Forums is a voluntary programme through which teachers and students participate in various developmental activities including the drive for food production. A number of Forums are assisting in the drive for food production.