

Smuggling

2698. Shri P. C. Borooah : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) the number of smugglers (i) apprehended (ii) shot dead in armed encounters or injured in such encounters during each of the last five years;

(b) whether smuggling incidence had been on the increase from year to year during this period and, if so, the percentage of increase in such incidents during each of these years over the preceding years; and

(c) the main vulnerable points along India's borders across which smuggling takes place ?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(b) There is no indication that smuggling activities have increased from year to year during the years 1961 to 1965.

(c) The main areas vulnerable to smuggling activities are as follows :

- (1) West Coast off Bombay.
- (2) Saurashtra coast line;
- (3) South-East coast line between Madras and Dhanushkodi;
- (4) the border areas of Amritsar Gurdaspur and Ganganagar Districts on the India West Pakistan border; and
- (5) the border areas of 24 Parganas District on the West Bengal—East Pakistan border.

Farakka Barrage Project

2699. Shri Prabhat kar : Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any foreign exchange involved in executing the Farakka Barrage Project;

(b) if so, whether the same was arranged before taking up the project; and

(c) if not, whether the foreign exchange has since been arranged ?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed) :

(a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Release of foreign exchange is arranged as and when the need for import of machinery, equipment etc. arises. Applications for release of foreign exchange are processed in the normal manner as in the case of other projects, on the merits of each case.

Damodar Valley Corporation Act

2700. Shri Prabhat kar : Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state

(a) whether it is necessary to obtain the clearance of the State Legislatures of Bihar and West Bengal to amend the Damodar Valley Corporation Act and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that a minor amendment was made to the Damodar Valley Corporation Act before eliminating the provision that the Members of the Damodar Valley Corporation should be full-time and if so, whether clearance of both State Legislatures was obtained before that amendment; and

(c) whether the appointment of the Chairman of the Bihar State Electricity Board and Irrigation Secretary of the Government of West Bengal as part time Members of the Damodar Valley Corporation attracts the provision of the Damodar Valley Act in respect of eligibility of Membership of the Damodar Valley Corporation in view of Boards having contract with the Damodar Valley Corporation and West Bengal Government's financial interest in the Damodar Valley Corporation about irrigation water ?