

lakh and 690.90 lakh in 1987, Rs. 138.17 lakh and Rs. 50 lakh in 1988 and Rs. 32 lakh and Rs. 891 lakh in 1989.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Sir, in how many cases the persons involved in smuggling are under arrest and detention and in how many cases, cases have been filed in the court and what is the amount of penalty realised from such persons?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: The details regarding the number of persons arrested, prosecuted and the amount of penalty realised from them in this regard will be made available to the Hon. Member later on.

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: The practice which has been in vogue for years together, is likely to increase because of the conditions prevailing in Nepal. What steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to check its recurrence in future and the extent of success achieved by the Government in this regard?

[*English*]

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Sir, as the hon. Member may be aware, the treaty between Nepal and India expired on 23rd March 1989. There have been discussions. In fact, in a recent discussion between India and Nepal, in March in Kathmandu, the Nepalese Government has given an assurance of cooperation in controlling the unauthorised trade. And we are sure that in the next meeting, this issue will further crystalise.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAYKUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the manner of disposal of all these confiscated items like bhang, hashish, charas, ganja etc. Has it come to the notice of the Government that these confiscated items find their way for sale in the market since these things are replaced by other things. Does the Government propose to destroy the entire lot of confiscated items after their seizure as it is also a serious matter?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Bhang, hashish etc. do not come under narcotics. I would like to request the hon. Member that he may give any suggestion in this regard so that some way or the other could be found out.

[*English*]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, usually smuggling takes place because we are not producing enough in this country. As far as these things are concerned, we are not going to produce them. But in some parts of our forests—I know there are thick forests in some parts of Kerala—plants like *ganja*, are being planted in areas measuring several hectares. It is an open secret. But such persons are never caught. Persons who may have one or two plants are caught. So, will the hon. Minister take immediate steps to catch all the big fry who are having large plantations in our thick forests?

SHRI ANIL SHASTRI: Our endeavour has always been to catch all sizes of fish. But I take the suggestion of the hon. Member in the right spirit. The thrust will be more on the larger fish.

Visit of US Delegation

*788. **SHRI ANARDHANAPOOJARY:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a US delegation visited India in February, 1990 to explore the possibilities of joint ventures; and

(b) if so, the areas identified by the group for joint ventures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ANANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Mr. Richard F. Celeste, Governor, State of Ohio visited India from February 15-23, 1990. Synchronising with Governor's visit a

business delegation also visited India. Although the Governor made courtesy calls on the Ministries of Commerce and External Affairs and Department of Industrial Development, the delegation's main interaction was with Indian Businessmen. Ministry of Commerce is not aware of the areas identified by the group for joint ventures.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY We should be selective on joint ventures. We should not go for joint ventures in areas which are not export—or technology—oriented. It is important that the ideology should not decide our policy. Pragmatism should be the watchword. What is the policy of the present Government so far as this aspect is concerned?

SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN We have always stated that in matters of trade and commerce, we do not have ideological considerations to interfere adversely in our attempt to expand our trade and commerce.

As far as the first part of the question that is, whether we should import technology for things that we can ourselves manage is concerned, I would like to say that we believe in self-reliance and we will not allow

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY What are the steps taken to remove the hurdles and also for simplifying the procedures for smooth inflow of foreign investment?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) This question basically pertains to the visit of a US delegation. In the reply, we have stated that the Governor of Ohio had come here. Then, a business group had come. They had with the various business groups in India. These are private bodies. They held over 70 meetings. We have really discussed matters of mutual interest—how we can expand the trade. As you know, the USA is the largest trading partner.

As far as liberalisation and making things easy is concerned, we have the new import-

export policy. We have rationalised procedures. We have encouraged exporters. Foreign investment is coming in. We are simplifying procedures. I think, the Minister of Finance has already answered several questions in that direction. But what we have explained to them is that we have a system in India. We have a procedure in India and what we have to see is that they understand our position a little better as we have understood theirs.

Withdrawal of Money by Kashmiri Migrants from their Bank Accounts

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*789 SHRI SHANKERSINH
VAGHELA
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the nationalised banks are allowing the Kashmiri migrants living in camps in Jammu and also outside the State withdrawals of money from their accounts left behind in the Valley,

(b) if not the reasons therefor and

(c) whether Government propose to allow these migrants to operate their accounts from designated branches of the relevant banks in Jammu and Delhi?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL KUMAR TRIPATHI) (a) to (c) Since the bank accounts can be operated only at respective bank branch, instructions have been issued to the banks to make expeditious arrangements for transfer of banks accounts/funds maintained with their branches in the Kashmir Valley to some other branches outside the Valley, if so desired by the customers and to deal with such requests with utmost promptitude.

MR SPEAKER The Question Hour is over.