

(c) the quantity of natural rubber imported during 1989 and the first six months of 1990: and

(d) the total quantity of natural rubber proposed to be imported during 1990-91?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):** (a) and (b) The total quantity of natural rubber released by STC to the actual users during the first six months of 1990 and the corresponding figures for the first six months of 1989 are 27,000 MT and 20,000 MT (including 4,279 MT of domestic rubber) respectively.

(c) The quantity of natural rubber imported during 1989 and the first six months of 1990 are 27,005 MT and 30,000 MT respectively.

(d) The total quantity of natural rubber proposed to be imported during 1990-91 is 40,000 MT. But the entire quantity may not be released which depends upon the market situation from time to time.

#### **New Schemes for Air Travel Facility to Promote Tourism**

1553. **SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:** Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has proposed any new schemes for providing air travel facilities to promote tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there have been many cancellation of tickets under tourism promotion schemes this year and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have introduced Multi entry Visa system for tourists; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER**

**OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK):** (a) and (b) Air India has been promoting India practically since the inception of its international services and works closely with the Dept. of Tourism and Travel Industry in India. This has been an on going process. Air India has been offering special promotional fares from most tourism generating areas and other special packages for promotion of tourism like Stopover Tours etc. Special Schemes have also been launched along with Department of Tourism to promote traffic to India, for example Off-Season Promotion, Special Destination Promotions, Familiarisation Tours etc.

(c) During the period April/June 1990, Air India Offices in Germany, France and Japan have reported several cancellations of inbound tourist groups. The total estimated loss during this period in terms of passenger numbers is 4250.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Visa rules have been liberalised to issue multiple entry visa valid for duration of 5 years to foreign travel agents and foreign tourists visiting India frequently and also foreign businessmen coming to India to establish industrial/business ventures. On each visit, foreign tourists and travel agents would be entitled to stay for a duration not exceeding six months. These facilities are not applicable to Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lankan nationals.

#### **Harassment to Women Employees of Air Ahmedabad**

1554. **SHRI BALVANT MANVAR:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the employees of All India Radio, Ahmedabad regarding harassment faced by women employees; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND**

**MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA):**  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An enquiry was conducted in the matter and on the basis of findings of the enquiry, the contract of the employee at fault has been terminated.

**Rise in smuggling activities**

1555. **SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the comparative percentage of rise in the smuggling of contraband goods during 1988, 1989 and 1990 till date:

(b) the identified routes found to be vulnerable for smuggling; and

(c) the further steps taken to strengthen those weak spots?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI):** (a) to (c) Smuggling being a clandestine activity, it is not possible to estimate whether the quantum of smuggling of contraband goods has increased or decreased over the last three years. However, the value of seizures of contraband effected throughout the country during 1988, 1989 and 1990 (upto 6th August) as given in the table show an increasing trend. This need not necessarily indicate a spurt in smuggling activities but could be due to intensified anti-smuggling efforts.

Available reports and seizures made indicate that both the West Coast and the East Coast of the country and the borders of India and Pakistan, India and Nepal, India and Bangladesh and India and Burma as well as the international airports and seaports all continue to be sensitive to smuggling. In order to combat smuggling, the anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country including those on the vulnerable spots of the coastline and the land borders and at the international airports and seaports has

been geared up. Close co-ordination is being maintained between all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling. The anti-smuggling formations have been equipped with vessels, vehicles, X-ray machines, metal detectors, night vision binoculars, fire-arms and telecommunication facilities wherever considered necessary:

Year	Value of contraband seized (Rs. in crores)
1	2
1988	443.14
1989	554.59
*1990 up to 6-8-90	387.78

\*Figures are provisional

**Opening of duty free shops**

1556. **SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have opened duty free shops at certain places in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on 30th April, 1990;

(c) the details of items being sold at those shops;

(d) whether Government propose to set up such more shops during the current year and next year for the facilities of common people; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI):** (a) Permission has been given by the Ministry of Finance to India Tourism Development Corporation and International Airports Authority of India to open duty free shops at specified places.

(b) As on 30th April, 1990, duty free shops are in operation at International