

Assistance to fishing industry of State Bank of India

916. SHRI K. V. R. S. BALA SUBBA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by the State Bank of India to assist the fishing industry in general;

(b) what are the details of the steps being taken by the State Bank of India to assist the fishing industry in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether any representations have been received from the deep-sea fishing industry in Visakhapatnam for financial aid; and

(d) if so, what decision Government have taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b) The branches of the State Bank of India in coastal belts have been actively financing the small fishermen for purchase of country crafts, catamarans, trawlers, fishing nets and other accessories. They have also financed 28 mechanised vessels through their Masulipatnam, Kakina, Visakhapatnam and Khajipalem ADB Branches.

(c) and (d) Representations have been received regarding the difficulties of the deep-sea fishing industry. The State Bank of India organised a meeting on 7th February, 1984 with owners of some of the mechanised fishing boats in which the various problems raised by the boat owners were discussed. State Bank of India have reported that these issues will be further discussed at the next SLBC meeting. State Bank is also taking up various issues with the concerned authorities.

Increase in smuggling activities along Malabar coast in Kerala

917. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggling activities along the Malabar Coast in Kerala have increased during the current financial year as compared to the year 1982-83;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the reasons for which the officials who were investigating the cases of smugglers held from the Tellicherry Coast have been transferred before the completion of the investigations by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Reports received by the Government indicate that the West Coast, including the Malabar Coast in Kerala, continues to be vulnerable to smuggling activities.

The statistics regarding seizure, etc. are maintained Collectorate-wise and not Coast-wise. The total value of seizures of smuggled goods effected by the Cochin Customs and Central Excise Collectorates (Malabar Coast is within the jurisdiction of Cochin Customs Collectorate) during the year 1982-83 and 1983-84 (Upto January) was Rs. 2.48 crores and Rs. 3.80 crores (provisional) respectively.

The length and nature of the coastline as also its proximity to Gulf States, makes the West Coast of India vulnerable to smuggling activities. Smugglers have adopted the strategy of using diverse landing spots covering a wider geographical areas on the West Coast for the landing of their goods, while are smuggled from the Gulf area.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Reports of theft of luggage from the godown of Trivandrum airport

918. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: