

further Customs Check after the clearance of the passenger. However, Section 100 and 101 of the Customs Act, 1962 provide for further check or search in certain special circumstances mentioned therein.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Exploitation of tourist potential from South Asia

1324. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:
SHRI ABDUL REHMAN
SHEIKH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of people of neighbouring countries in South Asia visit India as tourists and *vice-versa*;

(b) whether the full potential of such traffic has been exploited;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what steps Government propose to take to promote tourism within the region; and

(d) the estimated number of tourists from neighbouring countries during the last three years, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) to (c) While there is a substantial movement of tourist traffic from the countries in South Asia to India and *vice-versa*, the tourist potential of this region has yet to be fully exploited. For this purpose, a regional marketing programme is being drawn up by the member-countries of the South Asia Commission of World Tourism Organisation for promoting intra-regional tourism as also tourist traffic from other regions.

(d) The number of tourists from the neighbouring countries who visited India during the last three years is as follows:—

Country of Nationality	Year		
	1977	1978	1979
Afghanistan	15,842	19,535	10,276
Nepal	4,868	6,038	6,744
Sri Lanka	32,843	66,370	61,263

Salaries to employees of Nationalised Banks

1325. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the nationalised banks do not enjoy uniform scales of pay or conditions of service;

(b) if so, whether any effort is being made to evolve common scales of pay and conditions of service and also to institute common system of categorisation of staff; and

(c) whether any effort is being made to restrict operation in a district or region to one or two banks only in order to cut down cost of operation throughout a far flung area?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b) Clerical and sub-ordinate staff in the Nationalised Banks have already had all along uniform pay-scales and similar conditions of service. For officers of the 14 Nationalised Bank also, identical pay-scales and conditions of service and a common basis for grading of officers, have been introduced.

(c) There is no proposal to restrict banking operations in a district or region to one or two banks only. In the context of large gaps in rural credit structure, a multi-agency approach to rural financing is considered necessary in national interest. Under the