

Sale of confiscated goods

58. SHRI KISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of luxury goods seized by the Customs Department during December 1979; and

(b) the amount realised by the sale thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA):

(a) The value of smuggled goods (other than vessels and vehicles) seized by the Customs authorities during December 1979 was Rs. 3.06 crores.

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

Price of meat

59. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether meat sellers in Delhi had sometime ago gone on strike demanding ban on export of meat;

(b) whether a deputation had met the Minister;

(c) whether Government have agreed to ban export of meat;

(d) if so what are the details thereof?

(e) whether meat-sellers had given an assurance that prices of meat would come down and retail price would not be more than Rs. 12 per kg.

(f) if so, whether Government are aware that the price has not come down and meat is being sold at Rs. 14/- 15 per kg.; and

(g) if so, what steps are being taken to bring down the price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The export of Mutton (Sheep meat) was banned with effect from February 7, 1980.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Yes, Sir. The price has not come down to the level promised by retail meat sellers.

(g) Delhi Administration has been requested to take steps to bring down the prices of mutton.

Development of tourist centres in Sikkim

60. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:

SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR: SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to develop numerous tourist centres in Sikkim in order to attract foreign nationals and to earn foreign exchange;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are numerous places in Sikkim which attract foreign nationals every year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a proposal under Government's consideration to open tourist hotels in Gangtok and other tourist centres in Sikkim State and also airlink those places;

(d) if the answer to parts (a), (b) and (c) above be in affirmative, what is the yearly earning of foreign exchange and what is the number of foreign nationals visiting Sikkim State and the number of tourist centres in Sikkim which have been already developed or are considered to be developed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The State Government has constructed a 78-bed Tourist Hotel at Gangtok, and it is understood that loans have been given to private entrepreneurs by the