

Steps to curb smuggling of opium and 'charas'

*449. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought the co-operation of other countries to curb smuggling of opium and 'charas'; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Opium figures very insignificantly in international smuggling in and out of India. However, cases of smuggling of charas into India from across the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Pakistan borders and its attempted export to Western countries have come to notice. Government are however, alert to the situation and have adopted various measures to meet the situation.

As regards India seeking cooperation of other countries to curb smuggling of opium and charas, the Government have not so far sought any assistance from any foreign country in terms of trained personnel or equipment etc. However, India is a Contracting Party to various international Conventions and Treaties in the field of drug abuse control and suppression of illicit traffic. Indian representatives also regularly participate in the meetings organised by United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Interpol and Customs Cooperation Council where measures are considered for promotion of closer cooperation amongst Governments in the field of illicit traffic, particularly in drugs. Consultations on bilateral

basis are also periodically held with the countries affected by the illicit traffic.

Tourism development programme for Eastern States

*450. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have formulated any programme for development of tourism during the current year in Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) The schemes taken up by the Department of Tourism in the three States, namely, the construction of youth hostels at Darjeeling and Puri, forest lodge at Jaldapara and expansion of the existing Tourist Lodge at Darjeeling having been completed in the first two years of the Fifth Plan, no new schemes in the three States have been taken up in the current financial year. However, preparation of master plans (land use plans) of Rajgir, Naland and Konark commissioned by the Department of Tourism will be completed during the current financial year. These master plans are being prepared to ensure a regulated growth of tourist facilities at these places and preservation of the environment of the monuments at the above three places.

The India Tourism Development Corporation has provided for the expansion of its Travellers Lodges at Bhubaneswar and Bodhgaya, and the construction of a motel at Siliguri in its current year's budget.