

Indo-US Joint Commission meeting in Washington

513. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : SHRI
M. P. VARMA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two-day meeting of the economic and commercial sub-Commission of Indo-US Joint Commission was held in Washington recently;

(b) whether any decision has been taken by the sub-commission to establish a joint business council to promote direct contracts between their business sectors, including public sector enterprises in India in Industrial and commercial projects of his priority; and

(c) if so, the composition of the Joint Business Council' and when it is likely to start functioning?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI V. P. SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The exact composition of the Joint Business Council is yet to be decided. It is expected that the Council will start functioning soon after it is formally set up.

Steps to curb smuggling

514. SHRI SITARAM SINGH :

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the smugglers in the country have again become active; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any fresh steps to curb them; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRA-NAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Some intelligence reports suggest that after the first shock there are again signs of activities by smugglers. The position is, however, under constant watch. Apart from preventive detentions of smugglers and foreign exchange racketeers, measures have already been taken to set up the preventive checks in vulnerable areas, the distribution centres and on the feeder roads. A wireless communication network linking a number of points on the west Coast has also been established. Extra staff and equipment have also been provided to field office for the purpose. Ten Norwegian boats fitted with radar and other equipments have been acquired and *ten* more boats are expected to arrive by March/ April this year.

Administrative steps such as bringing more effective officers into the position have also been taken. More administrative and legislative measures are under consideration.

IA expenditure on publicity

515. SHRI KALYAN ROY :

SHRI BHOLA PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a continuous increase in payment of commission to agents, expenditure on publicity, sales promotion and legal expenses by the Indian Airlines during the last five years till the end of 1974;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise figure under each head;

(c) the reasons for such an increase; and

(d) what steps have been taken to economise these expenses and results achieved thereby?