

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the night of 16/17th April, 1974, the vessel was sighted off Arnala near Bombay. The vessel was intercepted by the Indian Navy at the instance of Customs and was brought to Bombay harbour. On search of the vessel, the following goods were found which were seized :—

(1) 9 slabs of silver totally weighing 6.520 Kg. valued at Rs. 7,700.

(2) 3 Walkie Talkie sets (made in Japan) valued at Rs. 12,000.

(3) Indian currency notes amounting to Rs. 1,600.

(4) Loose Catachu approximately 12 Kg. valued Rs. 700.

(5) One revolver with five rounds and 20 ampules of Morphine.

(6) Certain incriminating documents.

The total value of the seized goods is over Rs. 22,000.

The vessel which had all along been under detention was formally seized on 4-5-74. The Captain and crew of 10 have been arrested. Further action with regard to Departmental adjudication and prosecution is in progress. Two more Indians have been arrested later. Complaints for prosecution have been filed on 16-7-74. The next date of hearing is 30-7-74.

Construction of Air strips in Hubli and Kolhapur

*46. SHRI KRISHAN KANT :

SHRI GURMUKH SINGH MUSA-FIR :

SHRI J. S. TILAK :

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state what is the progress of construction work of air strips in Hubli in Karnataka and Kolhapur in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): Subject to the availability of funds, it is proposed to start some work on the construction of an aerodrome at Hubli-Dharwar during the current financial year.

The proposal to develop the existing aerodrome at Kolhapur is being reviewed since Indian Airlines are unlikely to be in a position to airlink this station in the fifth Plan period.

Tobacco export

*47. SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI :

SHRI GUNANAND THAKUR :

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI :

SHRI NATHI SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the name of the country which imports maximum quantity of tobacco from India; and

(b) the name of the agency in India which is entrusted with the job of exporting tobacco?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) U. K. has been the largest importer of tobacco from India for the last several years except during 1971-72 and 1972-73 when U.S.S.R. imported the largest quantity.

(b) Excluding Bangladesh, where the exports of tobacco are canalised through S.T.C., the tobacco trade to all other countries is free to all exporters.

Measures to arrest inflation

*48. SHRI GANESH LAL MALI :

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN :

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been considering a proposal to