

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know whether the Government has received any complaint that some Indian goods for which an export licence was never given are being sold in the Pakistan market?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: I cannot answer a general question. If the hon. Member has any specific case in mind . . .

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: I simply wanted to know whether the Government had received any such complaint or not.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: I am not aware of that.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that a lot of smuggling is going on from the desert and hilly areas of Rajasthan?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Some smuggling is going on. But so far as our figure indicates, both on the western border with Pakistan as well as on the eastern border, smuggling, as indicated by the seizure, is going down.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know if the hon. Minister has received any complaint that some Indian textiles and also some foodgrains are being smuggled regularly?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: So far, the goods seized are luxury goods like gold, silver, currency, blades, etc., etc. We have not got any such information regarding foodgrains.

BRANCH OFFICE OF THE IRON AND STEEL CONTROLLER AT HUBLI

*215. SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to open a branch office of the Iron and Steel Controller's Office at Hubli; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: In view of the fact that this long delay has been caused in disposing of the applications, will the Ministry think at least now of opening a branch office at Hubli?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a suggestion for action.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: That is right, Sir.

MINISTERS ON FOREIGN TOUR

*216. SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names and number of Ministers who went abroad during the last six months;

(b) the purpose of their visit; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange allotted to and spent by them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA): (a) to (c). A statement containing the information available so far is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXX, Annexure No. 15.] The remaining information will be furnished to the House, when ready.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: From the statement I find that nearly 50 per cent. of the Ministers were touring in foreign countries during these six months and there seems also to be a very unhealthy competition among the Ministers to go abroad. In view of the fact that we are already

hard up in regard to foreign exchange resources, would it not be desirable to restrict the movement of these Ministers in other countries?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: May I say that the word 'competition' is not right?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is what I am . . .

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: That is what I am about to say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, of course, all proper steps are taken to restrict these travels abroad.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Restricted to the minimum.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Travels abroad are restricted to the minimum and only when there is some useful purpose to be gained, would they undertake tours. Am I right?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Right, Sir.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know whether these Ministers went on tour alone or they were accompanied by their Secretaries and if so, how many?

MR. CHAIRMAN: When these Ministers go abroad, do they go alone or do they take their Secretaries with them? That is the question.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: It depends upon the purpose for which the Minister has gone. If he has gone for a conference, then the Secretary might go, or a Deputy Secretary might go. If not, he does not go. It depends upon the work involved. Nobody goes there for pleasure.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: I find from the statement here that tours have been conducted in certain cases by Ministers obviously for not very serious purposes, for instance, to obtain knowledge of the problems relating to ports, ship-building, etc.

Does the Ministry consider that it is such a serious purpose for which the Minister ought to have gone?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Does the hon. Member think that shipping is not an important question for this country?

SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: Is it a fact that a Minister of a State Government went to Japan just to open a Buddhist temple there?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: I have no idea about that.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: In regard to the statement that has been given by the hon. Minister in reply to this question, I would like to have information about the Secretaries who have accompanied these Ministers on tour, whether . . .

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: A separate question may be put.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If a separate question is put, a separate answer will be given.

GRANTS TO ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL FOR DEFENDING THEMSELVES IN CRIMINAL CASES

*217. SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 238 in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th April, 1960 and state:

(a) the number of personnel of Armed Forces who have been given grants to defend themselves in criminal cases during the last five years; and

(b) what was the amount of money given to them and when it was given?