

### Closure of Textile Mills

293. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of textile mills have been closed down during 1-1-1980 to 30-6-1984 in Gujarat, Bombay, Maharashtra and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the names of such textile mills and the reasons therefor;

(c) how many of them have been re-opened;

(d) what are the reasons for not reopening the remaining mills; and

(e) by when the remaining closed mills are likely to be reopened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### Increase in Smuggling Activities

294. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale smuggling activities are still going on in Gujarat, Maharashtra and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of such smuggling activities detected during 1st March, 1983 to 30th June, 1984 and the details of the smuggled goods seized as a result thereof;

(c) the action taken against the persons involved;

(d) what concrete steps have been taken to prevent such activities;

(e) whether it is a fact that goods worth Rs. 3500 to Rs. 4500 crores are smuggled into the country annually; and

(f) whether Government have any proposal to stop the sale of confiscated goods through Government agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) Reports received by the Government indicate that certain parts of the country including the Gujarat and Maharashtra regions of the West Coast continues to be vulnerable to smuggling activities.

(b) and (c) the value of smuggled goods seized and the number of persons arrested throughout the country and in the Gujarat and Maharashtra regions during the period from 1st March, 1983 to 30th June, 1984 are furnished below:—

	Value (Rs. in Crores)	Number of persons arrested
All India	125.44	3049
Gujarat	20.41	164
Maharashtra	45.74	900

Figurs are provisional

Stringent action is taken against persons found involved in the smuggling activities both departmentally as well as through prosecution in a Court of Law. In appropriate cases, detention under the COFEPOSA Act is also resorted to.

(d) The pattern of smuggling in the country is kept under constant review. On the basis of this review and analysis, the preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs Department have been geared up to remain vigilant with respect to the areas vulnerable to smuggling and the commodities sensitive to smuggling and appropriate anti-smuggling measures taken in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities. The field formations have also been reinforced in terms of manpower and equipment in the vulnerable areas, including the Maharashtra and Gujarat regions.

In the context of the intensification of anti-smuggling efforts, certain provisions of the COFEPOSA Act have been amended through issue of an Ordinance on 13th July, 1984. The main effect of the amendments is to provide for a longer period of detention, in certain cases, of smugglers operating in the highly vulnerable areas, which have been currently identified as the West Coast, the South Eastern Coast, the India-Pakistan border and the Delhi airport. The maximum period of detention in such cases will be two years instead of the normal period of one year.

(e) Smuggling, being a clandestine operation, by its very nature does not lend itself to any estimation.

(f) No, Sir.

#### **Taking over of sick/closed textile Mills in Gujarat**

295. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any proposals from the Government of Gujarat and various other trade union organisations for the taking over/reopening of closed and sick textile mills in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have constituted a Group of Officers to go into the problems of sick/closed mills in Gujarat with the objective of preparing rehabilitation packages in respect of those that can be made viable, within a short period. On the recommendations of the group, packages of rehabilitation have been formulated for some of these mills.

#### **Raids conducted by the various agencies of the Ministry of Finance in Gujarat and Maharashtra**

296. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of raids were conducted by the agencies of his Ministry in various parts of Gujarat and Maharashtra during 1st January, 1984 to 10th July, 1984 on the premises of industrialists, traders and leading persons in film industry etc.;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the details of the goods seized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) Income-tax Department conducted 559 searches in various parts of Gujarat and Maharashtra during 1st January, 1984 to 10th July, 1984 and seized *prima facie* unaccounted assets valued at Rs. 2.23 crores approximately.

Having regard to large number of searches, it is not practicable to give details of each case. However, if the Hon'ble M.P. desires information about any particular case, the same can be furnished. Information pertaining to other Departments of Ministry is not readily available, and is being collected.

#### **Rise in prices of essential commodities**

297. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI:

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:

DR. SHANTI G. PATEL:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of essential commodities have risen