

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.