

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