

Gold Recovered from Air India Boeing**676. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:****SHRI RAMCHANDRA
BHARADWAJ:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that 1200 tolas of gold worth Rs. 30 lakhs was recovered from the toilet of an Air India Boeing 747 on 22nd March, 1985 at the Sahar international airport;

(b) whether any persons have been apprehended in this connection; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) As a result of search by Customs of Air India air-craft which arrived from Dubai/Abu Dhabi on 22nd March, 1985, two cloth belts, with specially-made compartments, were recovered from underneath the disposal tray placed inside the toilet room near the economy class. On examination, each cloth belt was found to contain 60 gold bars, totally weighing 1200 tolas and valued at Rs. 29.73 lakhs. The gold recovered has since been confiscated under the Customs Act, 1962.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Change of Financial Year

677. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress so far made by the Expert Committee headed by Shri L. K. Jha which was set up by the Union Government to go into the question of change in the financial year; and

(b) by when the Committee is expected to complete the work in this regard and submit its report to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The Committee headed by Shri L. K.

Jha has submitted its report to the Government on the 27th April, 1985.

News item captioned "Minister drew blank at IMF meet"

678. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the New Delhi edition of the Indian Express on the 24th April, 1985 captioned "Minister drew blank at IMF meet";

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

(c) whether the team was unprepared to meet the situation as indicated in the news-item;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) what further efforts Government propose to make in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The Interim Committee Meeting (Committee of the Governors of the International Monetary Fund) was held on 17th April, 1985 and the Development Committee (Joint Ministerial Committee of the Governors of the IMF and IBRD) was held on 18th and 19th April in Washington. The meetings were attended by an Indian delegation headed by the Finance Minister. Issues relating to International Economic Cooperation with special focus on the developing world were discussed in these meetings. The nature of these meetings is however in the form of a continuing dialogue between the developed and developing world so as to arrive at a consensus on matters relating to international economic cooperation.

The press communiques of the Interim Committee and the Development Committee explain the position reached at the meetings.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.