

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Reports received by the Government and seizures made indicate that gold continued to be sensitive to smuggling into India, by air, during the last six months of 1984. The total quantity and value of gold seized throughout the country, including seizures made at the airports, during the period from July to December, 1984, are furnished below:

Period	Quantity (in Kgs.)	Value (Rs. in crores)
1984 (July to December)	361.8*	6.54*

(c) Details of smuggled gold seized and the number of persons arrested in this connection by the Delhi Customs Collectorate authorities during the last six months are furnished below:

Period	Quantity (in Kgs.)	Value (Rs. in Crores)	Number of Persons arrested
1984 (July to December)	68*	1.25*	41*

*Figures are provisional.

(d) Apart from the departmental proceedings for the confiscation of the smuggled gold and imposition of penalties on the persons concerned under the Customs Act, 1962, action to prosecute them in the courts of law is taken. In appropriate cases action for the preventive detention of the persons concerned is also taken under the COFEPOSA Act, 1974.

Bank Robbery in Meghalaya

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a bank robbery involving nearly Rs. 90 lakhs has

been reported from the Jowai Branch of a nationalised bank in Meghalaya;

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

(c) what action Government have taken in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that a cash shortage amounting to Rs. 86.90 lakhs had been detected on 10.12.84 at the currency chest of United Bank of India, Jowai Branch. The matter was reported by the Branch Manager to the local police and the police has registered a case. Government of Meghalaya has been separately requested to take immediate action to apprehend the culprits and recover the cash. The RBI has also reported that two employees of the branch, who were the joint custodians of the cash, had been taken into custody by the police on 11.12.84. One of the two other employees of the branch, who were absconding, has also since been apprehended.

Modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant

215. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 596 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd May, 1984 and state the salient features of the schemes regarding the technological upgradation and modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant, if since finalised by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): The major facilities envisaged in the proposals for the modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant which are now under consideration of the Government are installation of raw material storage, bedding and blending facilities for raw material preparation and also for coking coal; selective crushing facilities in the existing coke oven plant and provision of some new facilities for improvement in the quality of coke including introduction of stamp charging in the battery; installation of a new sinter plant