

Abolition of Estate Duty

210. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the proposal for the abolition of Estate Duty; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The question of rationalising the levy of estate duty is under consideration of the Government in the light, *inter alia*, of the recommendations made by the Economic Administration Reforms Commission.

Abolition of Compulsory Deposit Scheme

211. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the proposal for the abolition of Compulsory Deposit Scheme (C.D.S.); and

†(b) if so, what decision has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Government's decision in the matter will be reflected in the forthcoming Budget.

Missing of Army consignment from Ordnance Depot, Shakurbasti, Delhi

212. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 22nd September, 1984 captioned 'Army consignment missing' wherein it has been reported that a consignment of supplies worth several lakhs of rupees has disappeared from the Ordnance Depot at Shakurbasti, Delhi;

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

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) The news item published on 23rd September, 1984 in the 'Indian Express' under caption 'Army consignment missing' has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) The following stores are reported to be untraceable and an enquiry is in progress:

(i) Tent Pvt Mk III Files Inner	Qty. 80
(ii) Tent Pvt Mk III Files Outer	Qty. 80
(iii) Covers Waterproof 30'x30'	Qty. 97
(iv) Covers Waterproof 24'x18'	Qty. 20

Smuggling of Gold by AIR

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a sudden spurt in the smuggling of gold by air has been registered since the middle of last year;

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

(c) what are the details of the smuggled gold seized by the Delhi Customs authorities during the last six months and the number of persons apprehended in this connection and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure that the smugglers are given exemplary punishment and all the gold smuggled into the country is confiscated?