

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 course 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;

and improvement of existing sinter plant, improvements in blast furnace and steel melting shop with the aim of reduction in energy consumption and increase in productivity and some technological improvements in the rolling mills to improve quality and dimensional accuracy. Certain services will also be provided for improving steam supply for power generation, for balancing facilities in power distribution system and for the installation of medium pressure boilers for processing steam.

**Action against some officers of Central Excise**

216. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Central Vigilance Commission has charged the Department of Central Excise with attempting to delay on one pretext or the other the case relating to four Superintendents and seven Inspectors of the Central Excise against whom the Central Vigilance Commission had advised imposition of major penalty after they were found guilty in a departmental inquiry;

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in taking action against them as advised by the Central Vigilance Commission; and

(c) by when action is likely to be taken against these officials and the nature of action to be taken against each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) In its Annual Report for the year 1983, the Central Vigilance Commission has referred to delay in the finalisation of a disciplinary case concerning 4 Superintendents and 7 Inspectors.

(b) and (c) The disciplinary authorities have since finalised the cases of ten charged officers, the 11th officer having expired, and issued necessary orders. The delay in taking decision was mainly due to (i) trifurcation of common cadres leading to change in disciplinary authorities of some of the accused officers; (ii) filing of

a Court case by one of the charged officers; and (iii) non-availability of records with the disciplinary authorities which were required by the C.B.I. and for the court case etc.

**Suspension/termination of coalmine workers for participating in strike**

217. SHRI HARI SINGH NALWA: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of coalmine workers suspended on account of participating in the strike on June 4 and 5 1984;

(b) what is the number of workers still not allowed to join their duties; and

(c) what is the number of workers whose services have been terminated on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE):

(a) For various acts of misconduct during the two strike days, 16 workers in Eastern Coalfields Limited and 3 in Bharat Coking Coal Limited were suspended.

(b) and (c) The ECL have since allowed 2 persons to resume their duties and 1 person has been dismissed. The position in respect of the remaining 13 is being ascertained.

The BCCL has since allowed the 3 workers to resume their duties.

**Interim Report of the Fourth Pay Commission**

218. SHRI HARI SINGH NALWA: SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Interim Report of the Fourth Pay Commission for Central Government employees is likely to be submitted;