

Smuggling along Bombay coast

1035. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVIND-RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that petty smugglers who operate on the Bombay Coast smuggle into Bombay city contraband goods of daily use like cigarettes, scotch whisky, cosmetics, soaps, etc. are not apprehended by the Customs authorities; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to curb such activities which erode the economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) The reports received by Government indicate that the Bombay coast continues to be vulnerable to smuggling activities. The Customs authorities remain alert and, *inter alia*, maintain a watch on the petty smugglers of contraband goods like cigarettes, scotch whisky, soaps, cosmetics, beer, cheese, etc.

On the basis of intelligence received, etc. the Customs authorities conduct surprise checks and raids frequently on shops, vendors, hawkers displaying/dealing in smuggled goods in the city. They also remain vigilant to unearth sources of supply/storage of smuggled goods in the city.

The value of the goods seized as a result of such raids/searches conducted on shops stalls etc. displaying/selling smuggled good in the Bombay city during the year 1983 and 1984 (upto March) are furnished below:—

| (Rs. in lakhs) | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Year | Value of goods seized |
| 1983 | 10.38 |
| 1984 (Up to March) | 7.09* |

*Figure is provisional.

The situation is kept under close watch and appropriate anti-smuggling steps as warranted are taken.

Housing accommodation for Defence Personnel in Delhi Cantonment and Shakur Basti areas

1036. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of defence personnel of all categories at present posted in Delhi Cantonment and Shakur Basti areas;

(b) the percentage of employees who have been provided housing accommodation; and

(c) the programme on hand for improving shortage of accommodation for such employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) The number of Defence personnel of all categories at present posted in Delhi Cantonment and Shakur Basti areas is 28,312.

(b) In respect of Army personnel, the total percentage who have been provided housing accommodation is 45.8 per cent in Delhi Cantonment and 83.83 per cent in Shakur Basti, whereas in respect of Air Force personnel, the percentage of employees who have been provided housing accommodation is 16.1 per cent within Delhi Cantonment alone. Those who have not been provided Government accommodation are given hired accommodation.

(c) At present, 219 quarters are under construction for providing accommodation for Army personnel. Air HQrs have planned to provide 100 per cent accommodation by 1990-1991.

Meteorological experiments conducted in collaboration with U.S.S.R.

1037. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the meteorological experiments conducted