

Raids conducted for seizure of a smuggled goods

*107. SHRI S. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of raids conducted for seizure of smuggled goods in different places during the last three months; and

(b) what is the number of persons arrested in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) Between November, 1978 and January, 1979, 4510 searches were carried out in different parts of the country. As a result of these searches goods of a total value of Rs. 1.55 crores, which were believed to be smuggled, were arrested.

(b) During the same period, 345 persons were placed under arrest in connection with smuggling offences.

*108. [Transferred to the 8th March 1979].

Government loan to small business and rural areas

*109. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: O

(a) whether Government propose to reorganise the functioning of nationalised banks so as to reduce the share of big business in the grant of loans and to make these funds available more easily to smaller sectors and rural areas; and

(b) if so, what are the new measures which Government contemplate to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) and (b) The functioning of the public sector banks is kept under constant review. Government and the Reserve Bank of India have recently initiated

several measures designed to increase the flow of credit in rural areas and to ensure timely assistance to the weaker sections of the society for their small productive ventures. To achieve this objective Government have also advised public sector banks to increase their assistance to the priority sectors to 33-1/3 per cent of their total advances and step up the credit-deposit ratio of their rural and semi-urban branches separately to 60 per cent by March, 1979. The quantum of assistance under the Differential Rate of Interest Scheme which now covers the entire country, has been increased from 1/2 per cent to 1 per cent of their total advances. Private sector banks have also been advised to follow the guidelines prescribed for the public sector banks.

Guidelines on public distribution scheme

*110. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:
SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-
PATRO:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have forwarded the 12-point guidelines on public distribution scheme to States for their opinion; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme and by when it is expected to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) and (b) A Statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) Guidelines indicating the steps to be taken to implement the Production-cum-Distribution scheme for selected Essential Commodities