

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) The Development Officers' strike lasted from 8-3-78 to 27-3-78.

(b) The new business under individual assurances during the period of strike in 1978 compared to the new business during the corresponding period of the preceding year, is given below:—

(In crores of rupees)

	8-3-77 to 27-3-77	8-3-78 to 27-3-78
Sum proposed . . .	116.50	80.08
Sum assured . . .	120.85	107.73

(c) Bonuses are declared by the LIC on the basis of the biennial actuarial valuations and the next valuation is due as at 31-3-79. The actuarial valuation takes into account the experience during the inter-valuation period in the matter of mortality yield on investments and expenses of management. It is not possible to quantify in precise terms the likely effect of the Development Officers' strike on the bonus which would be declared at the next valuation. The relative costs on the Development Officers during the inter-valuation period would, however, be reflected in the results of that valuation.

Recovery of Rudraksh from Varanasi

*161. SHRI BHAGWAN DIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 92 bags of Rudraksh valued at Rs. 50 lakhs approximately were recovered from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh on the 4/5th April 1978;

(b) whether any enquiry has conducted into the matter;

(c) whether it is a fact that Rudraksh was recovered from Varanasi by the Customs and Central Excise Officers on 15th January, 1977 also.

(d) whether Government's attention

has been drawn in the alleged misuse of import licences for Rudraksh; and

(e) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) and (b) According to reports received by the Government, Varanasi Police authorities seized 85 bags of Rudrakash, at Varanasi, on 4-4-78, and produced the goods along with documents before the Customs authorities at Varanasi, on 5-4-1978, for necessary action under the Customs Act, 1962. However, enquiries revealed that the goods were legally imported on behalf of Bharat Sadhu Samaj, New Delhi. As no offence under the Customs Act, 1962 was involved, the goods were released to the party.

(c) Yes Sir. On 15-1-1977, the Customs and Central Excise officers detected 5 cases involving seizure of rudraksh, valued at Rs. 14,697/-. Appropriate action under the law is being taken in all these cases.

(d) No Sir. Reports received by Government do not show misuse of import licences for Rudraksh beads.

(e) Does not arise.

Bank Robbery Cases

*162. SHRI SITARAM KESRI:
SHRIMATI SAROJ
KHAPARDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of bank robbery reported during the last two years in the country;

(b) the total amount involved in these robberies;

(c) the number of cases that have since been solved and the amount recovered;

(d) the reasons for the delay in solving the remaining cases; and