

Seizure of Contraband Goods

1472. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA
SULTAN:

SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL:

SHRI SWAMI DINESH
CHANDRA:

SHRI SYED AHMAD
HASHMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids conducted for the seizure of contraband goods during the period from the 1st April to the 30th June, 1978;

(b) the value of contraband goods seized during each raid; and

(c) the number of persons arrested in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) to (c) Reports received by the Government indicate that during the period from 1st April to 30th June, 1978, 2609* raids involving seizure of contraband goods valued at Rs. 36.06* lakhs were conducted and 198* persons were arrested in this connection. (However, this does not include the value of goods seized otherwise than in raids).

Smuggling in Indian Films

1473. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA
SULTAN:

SHRI SWAMI DINESH
CHANDRA:

SHRI SYED AHMAD
HASHMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian films are being smuggled out of India;

*Figures provisional.

(b) if so, what are the details of such cases detected during the years 1976 and 1977; and

(c) what action Government have taken against the persons involved in such smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) to (c) Reports received by the Government indicate that some Indian films were attempted to be smuggled out of India. During the years, 1976 and 1977, four cases involving attempts to smuggle seven Hindi films were detected. In two of these cases involving five films, the goods were unclaimed and could not be connected with anyone. There were, therefore, no arrests in these two cases. In the remaining two cases involving seizure of two films nine persons were arrested. Two of these nine persons are in detention under Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 and the remaining seven persons are on bail. Also, departmental adjudication proceedings for imposition of personal penalties on the persons involved are in progress.

Imported Groundnut Oil

1474. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA:

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-
PATRO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 624 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th July, 1978 and state.

(a) the names of the parties which purchased the imported groundnut oil from the State Trading Corporation, and at what price;

(b) whether it is a fact that bulk of this oil could not be sold in the

local market and was re-exported to European buyers at a loss;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) what is the amount of loss suffered by Government in this transaction; and

(e) whether in view of the changed circumstances Government propose to withdraw the ban on the refining of indigenous groundnut oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES & COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) STC supplied in all 668.50 MT of groundnut oil to tide over a temporary shortage to some vanaspati units viz. Delhi Cloth Mills, Ganesh Flour Mills, Delhi and Kanpur, Ashwin Industries, Samalaya, New Bharat Ban. Doraha, Sohilraj, Bhavnagar, Amrit Ban, Ghaziabad and Rajpura, Oswal Van. & Gen. Industries, Ludhiana, Modi Vanaspati, Modinagar, Markfed, Mettur Chemical Industries for the production of vanaspati. The price at which the oil was issued is Rs. 8250/- per MT.

(b) to (d) In July last year, when the prices of indigenous groundnut oil were soaring up and internal market arrivals low, it was decided, after ascertaining the requirements of the State Governments, to import groundnut oil for distribution during festival season. The oil after refining was intended to be retailed at a price of Rs. 8.50 per kg. which was much lower than the then existing retail prices. Events, however, took a different turn. Even before the arrival the prices of indigenous groundnut oil started coming down sharply. The State Governments, therefore, withdrew their requisitions they had earlier made for allotment of imported groundnut oil. Alternative modes of disposal of the oil were then thought of. Various refining units requested for the allocation of the oil and the

STC invited open tender. Response was very poor and consequently all the tender offers were rejected. The oil could not be offered to the State Governments at break-even price considering the unprecedented phenomenon of a declining trend in the edible oil prices even in the lean season. Taking all factors into account, Government decided to permit STC to re-export 14,500 tonnes of imported groundnut oil which was in storage in Bombay. Re-export measures were finalised by the STC on satisfactory terms.

(e) The Order banning the refining of indigenous groundnut oil of expeller origin is periodically under review and appropriate action will be taken as necessary. As at present the ban is to continue till end of December, 1978.

star Hotels

1475. SHRI MAHADEO PRASAD VARMA:

SHRI RAMESHWAR SINGH:

SHRI LADLE MOHAN NIGAM:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the 'Star Hotels' built in the Central public sector, the foreign exchange expended on them and the foreign exchange earned by them during the last three years,

(b) the present financial position of these hotels; and

(c) whether any Janata Hotels are proposed to be built in Jammu and Kashmir

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

(c) All State Ministers of Tourism were requested to identify suitable sites for construction of Janata Hotels