

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: Why can't you manufacture in the public sector? Sir, the Minister has not replied to this point.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Do you want me to manufacture in the public sector? Do you want me to have goldsmiths enrolled with the Government?

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: Yes, certainly.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Certainly it is a suggestion and I will examine it.

Seizure and release of Diamonds in Gujarat

♦724. SHRI T. BASHEER: SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: + SHRI GHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH: SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA : SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some diamonds were seized by the Collector of Customs, Ahmedabad, from the dealers of Vishnagar town in North Gujarat;

(b) whether it is a fact that out of the seized diamonds, diamonds worth Rs. 28,000/- were unclaimed;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the seized diamonds were released recently; if so, what are the names of the parties to whom these were released; and

(d) whether the unclaimed diamonds were also released, if so, to whom and what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) and (b) Reports received by the Government indicate that the customs authorities of the Ahmedabad Collectorate seized diamonds worth Rs. 1,99,212, Indian currency of Rs. 43,827 and two calculators worth Rs. 600, at Visnagar, on 28th March, 1978. Out of these, there was no claimant for diamonds of the value of Rs. 20,700 at the time of the seizure.

(c) The matter was investigated by the Customs authorities. The officer adjudicating the case gave personal hearing to the concerned parties and after careful consideration of the evidence

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Yogendra Makwana.

Deiore mm, ordered the release of diamonds worth Rs. 1,78,512, and other goods, namely, currency and calculators. The names of parties to whom the diamonds were released are given in the Annexure. [See below].

(d) As regards unclaimed diamonds of the value of Rs. 20,700 the show-cause notice was displayed on the notice board of the customs offices at Visnagar and Ahmedabad. Two persons came forward to claim one lot of diamonds valued at Rs. 19,000. After considering the evidence tendered in this behalf, the said diamonds were ordered to be released to Shri Babubhai Ishwarbhai Patel, one of the two claimants.

Names of parties to whom the diamonds were released

1. Shri Tribhovandas Karsandans Prajapati.
2. Shri Haribhai Ambalal Patel.
3. Shri Bipinkumar Ramanlal Shah.
4. Shri Revabhai Babaldas Patel.
5. Shri Dhanjibhai Mulchandbhai Patel.
6. Shri Natwarlal Kalidas Joshi.
7. Shri Parsottambhai Shivramdas Patel.
8. Shri Pitamberdas Prabhashanker Joshi.
9. Shri Ganpatbhai Motiram Joshi.
10. Shri Kantibhai Mohanlal Patel.
11. Shri Bhogilal Ghaturdas Patel.
12. Shri Bhogilal Mathudas Patel.
13. Shri Virendrakumar Pitambardas Joshi.
14. Shri Gandadal Shankarlal Patel.
15. Shri Dwarkadas Babhaidas Patel.
16. Shri Kirtikumar Nemchand Shah.
17. Shri Rasikbhai Shivramdas Patel.
18. Shri Nathalal Hargovinddas Patel.
19. Shri Kritkumar Shankarlal Shah.
20. Shri Bhikhabhai Jethabhai Patel.
21. Shri Kacharabhai Shivbhai Patel.
22. Shri Ambalal Ranchhoddas Patel.
23. Shri Kanaiyalal Shankarlal Patel.
24. Shri Rajubhai Ishwarbhai Patel.
25. Shri Babubhai Ambalal Patel.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, the Minister has tried to evade the correct reply to the question. The diamonds were seized on 28th March, 1978 at Vishnagar and some diamonds of the value of Rs. 20,700, as he said, were unclaimed. These diamonds were released. I am interested to know when these diamonds were

released because nobody claimed these diamonds at the time of their seizure, on the spot. The notice may be displayed but nobody has come forward to claim the diamonds. It was much later that some two persons one is Mr. Babubhai Patel and the other he has not named—came forward and these diamonds have been released. It was given to them because they have paid some money to the Janata Party during the last Assembly elections and Lok Sabha elections.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it your supplementary ?

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA :
Yes, Sir. These are the facts.

SHRI PILOO MODY : In 1972 they must have paid to you.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
Mr. Piloo Mody also received some money.

I have enquired and I know that no show-cause notice was issued. No procedure was followed. It was only because of the Finance Minister that these diamonds were released. The Finance Minister is giving an incorrect reply. I am interested in knowing the date on which they were released, whether they were released on the spot or later on and whether they were claimed on the spot or later on. That is my first question.

SHRI PILOO MODY : We must have a commission of Inquiry against Mr. Makwana.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : Sir, it is very unfortunate that despite my all sincere efforts to give the fullest information to this House and to the hon. Member, he is unnecessarily charging me with evading the reply. Sir, the facts are very clear. The seizure was effected on 28th March, 1978.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : On a point of procedure. Will you kindly order for two more mikes there because we cannot hear despite the earphones. The Finance Minister is not audible!

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : The seizures were effected on 28th March, 1978. The goods were released and an adjudication order was passed by the Additional Collectorate, Ahmedabad, on 22nd April, 1978. The goods have been released to 25 parties, not to one. The list is there in the Annexure. There have been unclaimed goods worth Rs. 20,700. Goods worth Rs. 1700 have been absolutely confiscated as no ownership was established and goods worth Rs. 19,000 have been ordered to be delivered and released in favour of Mr. Babubhai Patel on 20th June.

श्री इब्राहीम कलानियाँ : दूसरा भी पड़िये ।

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : It is only one person.

MR. CHAIRMAN : the second name he wants.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : I am not trying to hide anything. I am telling you everything. On 24th April, 1978, regarding the unclaimed diamonds a show-cause notice was pasted on the notice board of the office. On 2nd May, 1978 these persons filed their claims. The President of the Diamond Cutters' Association was also associated. We also verified from the Diamond Cutters' Association because it is a well-known fact that Visnagar mostly consists of diamond cutters. He was also associated with the enquiry and four or five people filed their claims. Evidence was recorded. Mr. Dwarkadas also filed a claim and ultimately the adjudication order was passed on 20th June, 1978, which was issued on 4th of July, 1978, and diamonds worth Rs. 19,000—re released in favour of Shri Babubhai Patel.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I want a reply from Mr. H.M. Patel because the question pertains to Mr. Patel's Ministry and it is Mr. Patel who ordered that. On the 29th June there was a meeting in Mehsana. He went to Mehsana on 29th June, 1978 to attend a meeting. Previously also, in a supplementary asked by me on 25th July, 1978 and in another supplementary asked on 8-8-1978, I have mentioned that it was Mr. H. M. Patel who was interested in it. It was because he intervened, he called the officers at the airport and threatened them. One Officer, Mr. Jain was transferred. But later on he said that he would file an affidavit against the Minister. So he was again transferred and one Mr. D. Krishnamurthy, a Member of the Board, on instructions from the hon. Finance Minister, repeatedly telexed and threatened the officer to release the diamonds. Now the diamonds were seized, as per reply of the Minister, on the 28th of March, 1978 and released on the 22nd of April, 1978. Sir, I know the Custom Law. I am very well versed in that law and it could be released only..... (Interruptions) Nobody claimed it on the 28th when it was seized. Nobody came forward. But it was on the 22nd of April, 1978—that is after one month—that the diamonds were released. The Minister—I mean Mr. Patel; I do not mean Mr. Agarwal—has given a wrong reply. I charge him—last time when I raised this point...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Question Hour is over.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA:
Last time, he said it is a tissue of lies. I
want a reply from Mr Patel.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is upto them
whoever replies.

SHRI H.M. PATEL : I have said it
before also. In regard to this, on another
occasion when I happened to be here and
he mentioned this, I said that the whole
thing was a tissue of lies. I repeat it.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA:
I repeat that you are a liar. You are in-
volved in smuggling and it is at your
instance that this has been done.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Question
Hour is over. Don't record it.

*[Shri Yogendra Makwana. continued to
speak. (Interruptions)]*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Comparative Prices of Tobacco

•725. SHRI PHANINDRA NATH
HANSDA : SHRI JAHARLAL
BANERJEE: SHRIMATI
PRATIMA BOSE: SHRI
PRASENJIT BARMAN :
SHRI AHMAD HOSSAIN
MONDAL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE,
CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERA-
TION be pleased to state :

(a) the comparative prices of tobacco,
variety wise in West Bengal, Bihar and
Orissa during the years 1975-76, 1976-77,
1977-78 and upto July in 1978-79 ;

(b) the reasons for the fluctuation of
prices, if any, during these years ; and

(c) the measures, adopted or proposed
to be adopted by Government to stabilise
the prices of tobacco throughout the coun-
try in the interest of the tobacco growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL
SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI
ARIF BEG) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid
on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Based on month-end whole-sale prices, the minimum and maximum prices during the
years 1975 to 1977 and upto July, 1978 were as follows :—

		Price in rupees per quintal.							
State/Centre	Variety	Year							
		1975		1976		1977		1978 (Upto July)	
		Mini- mum	Maxi- mum	Mini- mum	Maxi- mum	Mini- mum	Maxi- mum	Mini- mum	Maxi- mum
Bihar (Bhagwanpur)	Desi Mohran	1075	1500	845	1150	670	750
Orissa (Cuttack)	Chewing	882	1124	982	1866	1035	1865	906	1160
West Bengal (Calcutta)	Motihari medium	780	1100	1150	1800	880	1680	780	900
West Bengal (Calcutta)	Bidi tobacco	1200	1250	1100	1200	1200	1200	1100	1300
West Bengal (Cooch Behar)	Motihari- medium	675	980	725	1550	650	1200	588	713