

(b) There are no reports of any increase in the availability of smuggled goods on the road-side in metropolitan cities.

(c) The main articles smuggled into the country are gold, watches, synthetic fabrics and diamonds.

(d) The Government have taken a number of steps to combat smuggling. These include strengthening of preventive and intelligence units, a more intensified patrolling of vulnerable areas on the sea coast and along the land borders, exercising greater vigilance at the major sea ports and international airports and providing to the Customs preventive staff necessary equipments by way of motor vehicles, binoculars, frisker devices, night-sights etc. The Customs Act has also been recently amended to raise the minimum sentence from six months to one year in certain types of cases. Besides, a number of economic measures have been taken to reduce the incentives for smuggling of some sensitive items. In order to curb the evil of gold smuggling, the Government have also commenced the sale of gold from the stocks held by it.

Printing of cheque books in Hindi and English

*210. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue instructions to the nationalised banks to issue cheque books printed both in Hindi and English; and

(b) if so, by when such cheques will be made available to the account holders?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b) All Public Sector Banks have been

advised to print their forms including cheque books in bi-lingual form i.e. in Hindi and English. Some of the banks have already printed bi-lingual cheque books and they are available to the account holders.

Mini airstrip for Simla

602. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to construct a mini airstrip in Simla; and

(b) whether it is a fact that all the State capitals are proposed to be linked with Delhi by air during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Export of sugar

603. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of sugar exported during the last three years;

(b) the countries to which sugar was exported;

(c) the rates at which it was exported; and

(d) the profit made or loss incurred on this account during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF REHMAN): (a) and (b) During the last three years the

following quantity of sugar was exported from India:—

Year	Quantity in lakh tonnes
1975-76	11.88
1976-77	5.80
1977-78	0.69

Sugar was exported to the countries mentioned below:—

1. U.S.A.
2. U.K.
3. Indonesia
4. Sudan
5. Egypt
6. Jordan
7. Morocco
8. Hungary
9. Iran
10. Aden
11. Iraq
12. West Germany
13. Yemen
14. Sri Lanka
15. Maldives
16. Qatar
17. Afghanistan
18. Rumania
19. Portugal
20. Nepal
21. Tunisia
22. Tanzania
23. Somalia
24. Seychelles
25. Kenya

(c) The average f.o.b. realisation on exports of sugar during the last three years was as under:

1975-76	Rs. 3943/MT
1976-77	Rs. 2621/MT
1977-78	Rs. 2381/MT

(d) The profit and loss on the export of Sugar during the last three years was as under:—

Year	Profit (+) Loss (—)	
	Rs	crores
1975-76	+ 158.56	
1976-77	—27.30	
1977-78	—2.72	(Provisional)

Smuggling of films out of India

604. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

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

(b) whether any film producers have been found to be involved in such smuggling; and

(c) what action Government have taken to prevent such smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) and (b) Reports received by the Government indicate that some Indian films were attempted to be smuggled out of India. But they do not suggest involvement of any film producer in the smuggling of films.

(c) To prevent smuggling of Indian films from India, a number of steps have been taken. These include greater vigilance over the clearance of baggage of out going passengers, thorough check and rummage of suspect cargo vessels before their departure and close watch and surveillance over the activities inside the harbour and other vulnerable areas at the major ports. The customs preventive and intelligence set-up are alert to the possibility of or attempt at smuggling of Indian films.