

Confiscation of properties of smugglers and other anti-social elements

*469. SHRI KRISHNARAO NARAYAN DHULAP: Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the value of property confiscated by Government of persons who indulged in smuggling, who violated foreign exchange rules and who were engaged in various other anti-social activities, till the end of January, 1976; and

(b) the State-wise break-up of the properties so confiscated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Competent authorities who have been entrusted with the task of confiscating the properties of smugglers and foreign exchange racketeers under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1976 took over only towards the end of January, 1976 and as such no properties have been confiscated till the end of January, 1976.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer given to part (a) above.

Smuggling of gold into India via Bangladesh

*470. DR. V. B. SINGH:
SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:
SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA:
SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON:

Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to press reports to the effect that gold is now being smuggled into India via Bangladesh;

(b) whether smuggled gold has also found its way into the west coast region; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to prevent revival of gold smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir; the Government have seen a press report to this effect. However, the intelligence reports suggest that barring stray incidents, there is no regular smuggling of gold from Bangladesh into India, nor also that smuggled gold has found its way into the west coast region.

(c) Since the possibility of revival of gold smuggling came up, consequent on the fall in the price of gold in the international markets, the field formations were immediately alerted. Their vigilance at the vulnerable points has been tightened. The various other anti-smuggling measures, which are continuously reviewed, and also intensified, would also directly help in the prevention of the revival of gold smuggling. On the Indo-Bangladesh border, the Border Security Force and police force has been set up to re-inforce the customs preventive network.

Uniforms to the staff of Akbar Hotel

*471. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the Akbar Hotel, including the back-staff, are not being given uniforms as is being given in other hotels of I.T.D.C.; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) All operational staff and back office cleaning and service staff in Akbar

Hotel are given uniforms, keeping in view the operational needs and the job requirements. Its back office clerical staff is not given uniforms as is the case in other new hotels of India Tourism Development Corporation.

Pune airport

*472. SHRI GULABRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to construct a new civil airport at Pune;

(b) the reasons for delay in undertaking the work; and

(c) by when the construction work is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to construct a new civil airport at Pune. The existing aerodrome belongs to the Indian Air Force, and the Civil Aviation Department is constructing a civil enclave to provide adequate passenger handling facilities. Construction of the apron has been completed and concreting of the taxiway is expected to be completed by 30-4-76. Work in connection with construction of a terminal building, car park, approach road etc. has been awarded on 15-3-76 and is expected to commence on 1-4-76.

Balance of trade with Bangladesh

*473. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state what was the balance of trade with Bangladesh during the year 1974-75 and 1975-76 and the expected value of trade during the year 1976-77?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

India's balance of trade with Bangladesh for 1974-75 and for 1975-76 (till November, 1975) was as follows:

(Rs. in Crores)

	1974-75 (April, 74 to March, 1975)	1975-76 (April to November, 1975)
Exports . . .	42.18	35.49
Imports . . .	9.18	1.79
Balance of Trade (+)	33.00	(+)33.70

No targets have been laid for 1976-77.

Excise duty on tea

*474. SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON;
DR. RAJAT KUMAR
CHAKRABARTI;
SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN
CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from Tea Planters' Associations urging relief in excise duty for Cachar and Darjeeling Tea; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI V. P. SINGH): (a) Suggestions for abolition of excise duty on Darjeel-