

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SMT. SARAJINI MAHISHI): (a) It is not proposed to construct any new 5-star hotels in the public sector during the Fifth Plan Period. The India Tourism Development Corporation will concentrate its efforts on expanding the infrastructure for middle income tourists.

(b) At present there are 3 public sector hotels which offer services and amenities of the 5-star de-luxe or 5 star category. The profit earned by these hotels during the year 1972-73 was Rs. 39.48 lakhs.

#### **Value of Gold, Silver and Precious Gems in the Country**

\*43. SHRI GUNANAND THAKUR:

SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI:

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI:

SHRI NATHI SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently made any assessment of the total quantity and value of gold, silver and precious gems in private hands in the country; and

(b) whether Government contemplate some measures to utilise this unproductive wealth for national development by collecting all such gold, silver and precious gems on pledge basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH). (a) It is not possible to make any reliable estimate of the total quantity and value of gold, silver and precious gems in private hands in this country.

(b) In the present inflationary environment it is not a practical proposition to mobilise private holdings of gold by any system of pledge. However, Government has recently decided to legalise exports of silver. To that extent the export proceeds from silver will be available for meeting the requirements of foreign exchange.

#### **Misuse of Import/Export Licences**

\*44. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:

SHRI S. KUMARAN:

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigations has registered cases against persons/firms who have misused import and export licences during 1973;

(b) if so, the number and nature of cases instituted against individuals and/or firms; and

(c) what other action has been taken or is proposed to be taken against them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) CBI registered 41 cases during 1973. 85 firms/companies/ individuals are involved in these 41 registered cases. 9 cases are under trial, one case has been closed and in one case departmental action is under examination. 30 pending cases are still under investigation. The action to be taken will depend upon the results of the investigations and the outcome of the court trials.

#### **Seizure of a Ship Carrying Contraband Goods**

\*45. SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHIDEEN:

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA:

SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH:

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Customs authorities have seized a ship named 'PATRICIA' on the 4th May, 1974 loaded with contraband goods; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this