

particular point has not been answered, you can —

(Interruptions) MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He was expressing an opinion.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : He has asked about the landed assets of the company.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Subramania Menon. Next question.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: How can you proceed?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, next question.

**PAYMENT OF REWARDS TO INFORMERS ABOUT SMUGGLING**

\*739. SHRI MONORANJAN ROY:f SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount paid as reward to informers who gave useful information about the goods being smuggled into the country during 1969, 1970 and 1971;

(b) whether it is a fact that Collectors of Customs are authorised to pay advance awards immediately on seizure of goods; and

(c) if so, the amount thus paid in advance in 1971?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH):

(a)	1969 . . . . .	Rs. 54,79,145
	1970 . . . . .	R. 92,54,328
	i • . . . .	Rs. 73,77,290

(b) Collectors of Customs are authorised to pay advance rewards in respect of seizures of

(i) gold bullion, (ii) goods like watches, synthetic yarn, synthetic fabrics, cigarettes, cosmetics, blades, pens notified under Sec. I IB or silver specified under Sec. II-I of the Customs Act, 1962, except seizures of small quan-

tThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Mono-ranjan Roy.

ties of assorted goods from business or residential premises, (iii) goods not declared which are seized in customs area or customs waters, and (iv) unclaimed goods.

(c) Rs. 34,89,632.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No questions, Mr. Monoranjan Roy? All right. Yes, Mr. Subramania Menon.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON: Sir, I want to know from the honourable Minister whether they have received any complaints that in some cases the Customs Officers have been misusing this facility by using fictitious names of people to conceal the identity of these goods and then collecting these and also whether there have been complaints or allegations that in the case of ordinary people, poor people, giving the warning to the Customs authorities such people are not rewarded. I want to know, Sir, whether they have received such complaints from the people.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: Sir, I have no specific complaints. If the honourable Member has any specific facts about this, I will get them examined and have them looked into.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Chinai.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Sir, the smuggled goods which are coming into this country are sold in the open market by auction or by various dealers. Instead of that, will the Government think of exporting these goods to some other countries whereby we can earn foreign exchange which we have lost by getting these goods smuggled into this country?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: Sir, as far as the disposal of smuggled goods is concerned, a Committee was set up and they have made some recommendations. Now, Sir, some of these recommendations have been accepted and some are in the process of being accepted and are in the process of consideration. Sir, one

of the recommendations is also this that some of these smuggled goods can be kept at the airports which can be bought by the travelling people and we can earn foreign exchange out of that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, I want to know whether the honourable Minister is aware that very recently a statement was made on the floor of the Assembly in Maharashtra about the rewards given to people who have given information about the smuggling of goods. I want to know what procedure they adopt. Is it a fact that even smugglers themselves are rewarded because they show that they are really helping the Government? Sir, this statement has been made by no less a person than the Minister of Home Affairs of the Maharashtra Government indicating that nearly Rs. 12 lakhs was awarded to a very renowned smuggler of Bombay, Mr. Joseph. Sir, he is one Mr. Joseph. I want to know, Sir, what the procedure is with the Government of India in giving awards even to the smugglers. Sir, this is a statement made by the Home Minister of Maharashtra.

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR: To catch a thief you have to set a thief.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Pardon me. What did you say?... I do not follow you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kulkarni, you better address me and try to get the answer.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, I want to know from the Government whether their procedure is having all the loopholes that even the smugglers can take advantage of them and whether they will take the utmost care and go through the case of Mr. Joseph. Sir, I am told that Mr. Joseph has thick relations with Mr. Thakre, the chief of the Shiv Sena in Bombay.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: Sir, the non-honourable Member has raised a specific point....

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Not a specific point alone. I asked about your procedure also.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: Sir, he raised a point about a statement having been made by the Home Minister of Maharashtra that a smuggler has been rewarded. This requires being looked into and I promise to look into it, Sir.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, I asked a specific question about the basic procedure and he has neglected it. What is their procedure? Is it such that the smugglers can take advantage of the rules?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: The procedure is that the Collector of Customs has been authorised, and an overall ceiling has been fixed. That is, for gold bullion it is up to Rs. 20/- per tola. Each information received is registered, and according to the registered information the Collectors give awards.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Is the reply complete? The point is Rs. 12 lakhs have been paid ...

(*Interruptions*) MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Salam Tombi.

SHRI SALAM TOMBI: May I know the value of the seized smuggled goods as a result of information given by informers during those years?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: I have given the figures of awards...

SHRI SALAM TOMBI: I want to know the total value of the smuggled goods seized.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: I will give. During 1969, it was Rs. 2501 lakhs; during 1971 it was Rs. 2207 lakhs and during 1971 ii was Rs. 2083 lakhs.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: It is true that many members of the ruling

party may be associated with the smuggling. When many members of the ruling party are..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : What is your question? ...

{Interruptions}.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: Is the hon. Member aware of the fact that many members of the ruling party are also concerned with smuggling?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: It is a very contemptuous question, and it does not require any answer.

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर : श्रीमान्, हमारा एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है।

श्री उपसभापति : आप जरा बैठ जाइए, उन्होंने उत्तर भी दे दिया है।

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर : नहीं, माननीय सदस्यों की प्रतिष्ठा का प्रश्न है। यह प्रश्न तो मंत्री जी से संबंधित है लेकिन माननीय सदस्य ने सत्ताधारी दल के सदस्यों के ऊपर आक्षेप किया है (Interruption) आपने कहा की सत्ताधारी दल लोगों का उससे संबंध हो सकता है।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : यह उन्होंने कहा है तो आपका एक्सपीरियन्स क्या है? क्या सत्ताधारी दल के लोग उनसे मिले हुए नहीं हैं।

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर : यह जन संघ के लोग बता सकते हैं, उन्हीं के लोग स्मगलिंग कराने वालों से मिले रखते होंगे।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you go on like this, there will be no end to it. Next question.

सोने का मूल्य

\*740. श्री वीरेन्द्र कुमार सखलेचा :†

श्री रत्तन लाल जैन :

श्री ना० कु० शेजवलकर :

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर :

श्री डी० के० पटेल :

श्री लाल आदवाणी :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 1 अप्रैल, 1972 को भारतीय तथा विदेशी बाजारों में सोने का मूल्य क्या था और इस समय क्या है ; और

(ख) इसके मूल्य में वृद्धि के क्या कारण हैं और भारतीय अर्थ व्यवस्था तथा विदेशी व्यापार पर उसका क्या प्रभाव पड़ा है ?

X [PRICE OF GOLD]

\*740. SHRI V. K. SAKHLECHA : SHRI RATTAN LAL JAIN : SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR : SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR : SHRI D. K. PATEL : SHRI LAL K. ADVANI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the price of gold in the Indian as well as foreign markets as on 1st April, 1972 and as at present; and

(b) the causes for increase in prices and its impact on Indian economy and foreign trade?]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Recent price movements in the free international gold market can be attributed to speculative influences as well as to factors affecting demand and supply. As the price of gold for official monetary transactions continues to remain unchanged at US \$38 per ounce, free market prices have no effect on India's foreign trade and external payments position. The comparatively

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri V. K. Sakhlecha.  
X] English translation.