

abroad and the vigilance kept by the Navy on the West Coast.

(b) The value of the smuggled goods seized during the years 1969 to 1971 (year-wise) are given below :

Year	Value of gold seized (in lakhs of Rs. at international monetary rate)	Other goods seized (in lakhs of Rs. at Indian market rate)
1969	530	1971
1970	428	1779
1971	178	1905

(c) The following steps have taken to prevent smuggling of goods into the country.

Systematic collection and follow-up of information, keeping a watchful eye on the suspected smugglers, rummaging of suspected vessels or aircraft, and checking of vulnerable sectors along the coast and the land frontiers. Additional launches and vehicles are being provided from time to time for effective interception, prevention etc. Some senior officers of the rank of Collectors of Customs, Additional Collectors of Customs and Assistant Collectors of Customs have been posted in vulnerable areas to look after anti-smuggling work exclusively. Customs Act, 1962 has been amended making additional provisions to take special measures for the purpose of checking illegal import and export of certain commodities and facilitating their detention. The position is kept under constantly review.

PROMOTION OF EXPORT OF HANDLOOM GOODS

541. SHRI THILLA1 VILLALAN :
SHRI K. A. K.RISHNASWAMY :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state the specific steps taken by Government during the current year for the promotion of the exports of the handloom goods ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT The Handloom Export Promotion Council, Madras, is mainly charged with the promotion of export of handloom products. The important steps taken to promote exports of handloom products are in the field of external publicity. The Council has taken the following steps during the current year :-

(1) *Exhibitions*—The Council participated in the—

(a) Co'one Mens' Fashion Week, Cologne, West Germany in August, 1972; and

(b) Indian Exhibition in Suva (Fiji) in October, 1972; and

(2) *Delegations*—The Council sent two delegations/Study Teams to—

(i) Europe, in May, 1972; and

(ii) Japan, Hongkong and Malaysia, during September, 1972;

for making on the spot studies of the markets there.

(3) *Advertisements*—Extensive advertisements for handloom products have been released in selected foreign publications.

2. The Council is also participating in the Third Asian International Fair and giving wide publicity to Indian Handloom Products.

3. The All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Cooperative Society, Ltd., Bombay, which is the biggest exporter of handloom goods, was assisted to open an office in Hamburg to increase their exports to Europe.

TEA TRADING CORPORATION

542. SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the constitution and functions of the Tea Trading Corporation have been laid down, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Corporation has started its work; if not, the reasons for the delay, and by what time the Corporation is likely to start its work; and