

**SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES OF CONSULAR OFFICIALS**

\*589. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that crores of rupees worth of foreign watches, cameras and other valuable restricted items are being regularly smuggled into India for sale by a section of Consular officials representing European countries in Calcutta;

(b) if so, the number of such cases apprehended by Government during the last two years; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to prevent the smuggling activities of the officials of these missions ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) Two cases of smuggling of contraband items by members of the Consular Corps in Calcutta were detected during the last two years. Goods worth Rs. 23 lakhs were involved.

(c) Necessary steps continue to be taken to prevent and detect such cases. It is not in the public interest to divulge the nature of the steps taken as that may defeat the very purpose of taking these steps.

**J DECENTRALISATION OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA**

\*617. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Geological Survey of India is being decentralised by merging the Ground Water Division in the Central Board and transforming the Mineral Exploration Corporation wing into the Mineral Exploration Corporation;

(b) if so, whether there is any resentment against this merger by the staff of Geological Survey of India; and

(c) if so, the reasons for decentralising Geological Survey of India ?

jTransferred from the 29th August, 1972

^Transferred from the 30th August, 1972

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM):

(a) and (c) There is no proposal to decentralise the Geological Survey of India as such. Government have, however merged the Ground water wing of the Geological Survey of India with the Central Ground Water Board of the Ministry of Agriculture with effect from 1.8.1972. This decision was necessitated because the exploration and exploitation of groundwater resources which were hitherto handled by separate organisations, are intimately related functions and called for a single organisation to look after these functions.

A decision has also been taken to set up a Mineral Exploration Corporation to undertake the work of exploration in detail and proving of mineral resources in the country in the shortest possible time. The main reason for setting up the Mineral Exploration Corporation is to avoid unnecessary overlapping in the functions of the various agencies connected with exploration and exploitation of minerals in the country and to bridge the gap between the preliminary exploration and commercial exploitation.

(b) Some employees of the Geological Survey of India have expressed their unhappiness at these decisions taken by the Government.

**CLOSURE OF FACTORIES**

1533. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state the number of factories closed in different states up to March, 1972 ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : Information is being collected.

1534. [Transferred to the 29th August, 1972]

**REPRESENTATION BY COAL MINES LABOURERS**

1535. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation from labourers of any coal mines in West Bengal in 1970-71 regarding closure of Coal Mines due to exhaustion of reserves;