

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) (a) and (b) : The British Government had during the recent Indo-Pak hostilities, sought Government of India's agreement for the evacuation of their nationals from Bengla Desh by Ships of Royal Navy. The proposal, however, was withdrawn by them when the British authorities agreed that satisfactory arrangements had already been made for evacuation of the British and other foreign nationals and any other step was unnecessary.

SEIZURE OF SMUGGLED GOLD

377. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:
SHRI SWAISINGH SISODIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount and value of smuggled gold seized by the customs authorities during the years 1970-71 and so far in 1972; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to prevent smuggling ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) (a) : The quantity and value of smuggled gold siezed by the Customs and Central Excise authorities during the years 1970, 1971 and 1972 (upto February) were as under :

| Year | Quantity (Kgs) | Value at inter- national rate (Rs. Lakhs) |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---|
| 1970 . . | 5,076 | 428 |
| 1971 . . | 2,051 | 178 |
| 1972 (upto February) | 629 | 53 |

(b) The following measures have been taken to prevent smuggling of contraband goods including gold : Systematic collection and follow-up of information, keeping a watch-ful eye on the suspected smugglers rummaging of suspected vessels and aircraft

and petrolling of vulnerable sectors along the coast and the land frontiers. 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 also reviewed frequently in the light of the information collected, for suitable action.

378. [Transferred to the 6th April, 1972.]

SUPPLY OF CRUDE BY IRAQ

379. SHRI DHAYABHAI V PATEL :
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Iraq has offered to increase its supply of crude to India gradually and also to finance an oil refinery ;

(b) whether the crude has been tested in India, if so, what is the technical report;

(c) the details of terms on which Iraq has made its offer ;

(d) whether Iraq has signed an agreement for the setting up of an oil refinery in our country ; and

(e) if so, the place where this refinery will be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) to (e) Iraq is not supplying crude oil to India at present. A broad agreement has been reached with Iraq for supply of crude oil. Detailed terms and conditions are still being negotiated. Preliminary laboratory evaluation shows that Iraqi crude can be processed in the Barauni Refinery after undertaking some modifications there. The Iraqi offer to finance an oil refinery based on Iraqi crude can be pursued only when an agreement reached is regarding terms and conditions of supply of crude oil.