

SMUGGLING OF GOLD AND VARIOUS
OTHER ARTICLES

889. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE/वित्त मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that gold bars with foreign markings valued at Rs. 3 lakhs were seized by the Central Excise Officials from various places in Madurai City on the 27th June, 1971 ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in May, 1971 smuggled goods worth Rs. 7.41 lakhs were seized by the Madras Central Excise Collectorate ; and

(c) if so, what further steps Government propose to take to check the increase in smuggling of gold and various articles ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE/वित्त मन्त्रालय में
राज्य मंत्री (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) On 26th June, 1971, gold bars with foreign markings valued about Rs. 2.5 lakhs at Indian market rate were seized in two raids conducted in Madurai City by the Central Excise Officers, Madurai.

(b) Yes, Sir,

(c) Measures taken by the Government to combat smuggling are as follows :

Systematic collection and follow-up of information keeping a watchful eye on the suspected smugglers, rummaging of suspected vessels or aircrafts, patrolling of vulnerable sectors along the coast and at the airports and posting of highpowered officers to devote attention exclusively to anti-smuggling matters. Strengthening of staff and acquiring of sea crafts and other anti-smuggling equipment are *inter-alia* some of the further measures under consideration.

AIR SERVICES BETWEEN JAMSHEDPUR-RANCHI-
PATNA

890. SHRI DHARAM CHAND JAIN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION/पर्यटन और नगर विमानन मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) by what time the Jamshedpur-Ranchi-Patna air service is likely to be re-introduced ; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Darjeeling is proposed to be linked with air, if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND
AND CIVIL AVIATION/पर्यटन और नागर
विमानन मंत्री (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) Indian Airlines have no proposal to operate Jamshedpur-Ranchi-Patna air service for the present.

(b) Darjeeling is already served by the aerodrome at Bagdogra.

DUM DUM AIRPORT

891. SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION/पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the gloomy and dark condition in which Dum Dum airfield is maintained as compared with the Palam aerodrome ; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND
CIVIL AVIATION/पर्यटन और नागर विमानन
मंत्री (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

RURAL BUSINESS OF L. I. C.

892. SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE/वित्त मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rural business of the Life Insurance Corporation has been growing at a faster rate ; if so, the details in this regard ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE/वित्त मन्त्रालय
में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) and (b) The new business from rural