

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION/पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री : (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) A Zonal Conference of the Ministets of Tourism of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Mysore, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry, was held in Ootacamund on the 17th and 18th May, 1971.

(b) The decisions taken at the conference have not yet been communicated to the Government of India. However, the conference resolved to set up an inter-State committee for selection of suitable tourist complexes for development and organisation of package tours in the Southern Region. It further considered the allocation of Rs. 25 crores in the Fourth Plan for Tourism to be too meagre and resolved to request the Government of India to allocate more funds for tourist development with emphasis on the development of the Southern Region. The conference also decided to take necessary steps for joint publicity for promotion of tourism in the Southern Region.

NATIONALISATION OF GENERAL INSURANCE

782. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE/वित्त मंत्री be pleased to state the details of the projects »» be benefited by the nationalisation of general insurance?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE/वित्त मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री : (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): No particular projects are to be benefited by the nationalisation of general insurance.

SMUGGLING OF GOLD INTO INDIA

783. SHRI N. G. GORAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE/ वित्त मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any estimates of the volume of gold smuggled j into India every year;

(b) what will be the estimated value of gold smuggled every year; and

(c) whether it is a fact that out of the 18,000 tolas of gold sold every day in the country, as much as 16,000 tolas of gold is of the smuggled variety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE/वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI K. R. GANESH) :

It is not possible to make an exact estimate of the value of golds smuggled into India every year. However, the figures of the amount of gold seized as a result of the anti-smuggling measures are available. The figures for the last 5 years are given in the statement attached. (See below)

(c) While the prescribed accounts maintained by the licensed dealers would indicate their recorded legal transactions of sale and purchase of gold in various forms like ornaments, articles, and primary gold, it is not possible, in the nature of things, to ascertain how much smuggled gold enters the market.

STATEMENT

Value of gold seized as a result of anti-smuggling measures

Year	Value in Rs. lakhs (at international rate)
1966	195
1967	410
1968	333
1969	530
1970	428

CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTERS

784. SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARY:

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE/शिक्षा और समाज कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of Social Welfare Ministers of various States was held in May, 1971;