

हो सकती हैं। हावकांग में रुपये की इस प्रकार की अनधिकृत विनियम दरें जो कि कुछ पत्रिकाओं में प्रकाशित हुई हैं प्रश्न में बताई गयी सीमा तक रुपये के मूल्य में गिरावट आने का संकेत देती हैं।

(ग) विदेशी मुद्रा में देश के अभिलिखित लेन-देनों के संदर्भ में अनधिकृत दरों पर होने वाले लेन-देन अवश्य ही किसी किसी उगड़ पर ही होते हैं और उनका स्वरूप भी सीमानिक ही होता है। इसलिये भारतीय रुपये के मूल्य से उनकी कोई खास संगति नहीं होती। रुपये की ताकत का पता मुख्यतः देश की शोधन-शेष संबंधी समग्र स्थिति से ही चल सकता है जिसमें हाल में सुधार होने के स्पष्ट संकेत मिले हैं।

[THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVHAN) : (a) and (b) The value of the Indian rupee, that is, its official par value, has remained unchanged at 13.33 U.S. cents since the devaluation in June 1966. All authorised foreign exchange transactions in the country are carried at rates which are within the permissible range of one percent of the par value. Transactions in contravention of the Foreign Exchange Regulations may occur at rates different from the official rates, and, due to their inherently illegal and limited character, the so called unofficial rates may fluctuate. Such unofficial quotations for rupee in Hong Kong as published in some journals indicate fluctuations of the magnitude stated in the Question.

(c) In the context of the country's recorded transactions in foreign exchange, the transaction is at the unofficial rates of exchange are necessarily of a sporadic and marginal character. They have therefore no particular relevance to the value of the Indian rupee. The strength of the rupee is primarily reflected by the country's overall balance of payments position, which has recently shown distinct signs of improvement.]

SMUGGLING ON INDO-NEPAL BORDER

*237. SHRI D. D. PURI : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that smuggling particularly of heroin and a host of other items has become a big business in the area around about the Indo-Nepal border; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken or propose to take to stop this smuggling ?

†[] English translation.

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) There is smuggling of goods through the Indo-Nepal border; but no case of smuggling of heroin has come to the notice of the Government of India.

(b) The following steps have been taken to prevent smuggling across the Indo-Nepal border :—

"In January, 1967, 27 mobile preventive parties; 14 in Bihar and 13 in U.P. were set up under the supervisory control of Assistant Collectors. In May, 1970, 11 additional preventive parties on the border and 24 city preventive parties have been deployed. The staff on 18 recognised border check-posts along the border has also been strengthened. One company of the Central Reserve Police Force has also been deployed in Purnea District of Bihar to assist the Customs staff in anti-smuggling measures. The cooperation of the Government of Nepal has been sought for plugging the loopholes in existing schemes in Nepal which could be exploited by unscrupulous traders in that country. At the behest of the Government of India, the Nepalese Government have modified the Gift Scheme under which any person could import goods valued Rs. 1000/- at a time. Under the modified scheme, the limit upto which gifts can be imported at a time has been reduced to Rs. 200/- only. The entire problem is kept under constant review to meet new situations."

INDEX OF PRICES

*238. SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIAMENON : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what was the index of wholesale prices in April, 1970 as compared to that of April 1969;

(b) what was the working class cost of living index in April, 1970 as compared to that of April, 1969;

(c) what was the percentage increase in each case ;

(d) what are the reasons for this increase; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to bring down the price level ?