

SEIZURE OF SMUGGLED GOLD IN
BOMBAY

*158. SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHIDEEN:†

SHRI RAM SAHAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggled gold worth Rs. two crores was seized by the Maharashtra Government anti-corruption Bureau on the 22nd March, 1969 from two cars parked in a posh locality in Bombay;

(b) if so, whether the owners of the cars have been taken into custody by Government;

(c) whether any enquiry was held by Government into the affair; and

(d) if so, the findings of the enquiry held and the punishment given to the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) On the 22nd March, 1969 the staff of the Anti Corruption Bureau, Bombay intercepted 2 cars parked in the compound of Mafatlal Park, Warden Road, Bombay and seized gold with British and Swiss markings valued approximately at Rs. 113 lakhs at the market rate and Rs. 54 lakhs at the international rate.

(b) The owners of the cars have not yet been traced.

(c) and (d). As a result of the investigations made so far it is found that the two cars had bogus number plates. The engine numbers of the cars have been mutilated. Further investigations to trace the owners are still in progress.

SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHIDEEN: May I know from the honourable Minister whether there is any special reason for the large-scale smuggling

in the Maharashtra State? Number two. In view of the fact that there is large-scale smuggling in the Maharashtra State, is the Government considering the creation of a special establishment to check it?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Madam, we have already amended the Customs Act and special measures have been taken. More officers have been deputed and even a hover-craft is being engaged and we are taking all possible measures to check the smuggling.

श्री राम साहाय : क्या मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जान सकूंगा कि जिन देशों से यह गोल्ड स्मगल होता है उनके रेट्स में और अपने यहां के रेट्स में कितना अंतर है और वहां से जो स्मगल करते हैं वह पेमेन्ट किस प्रकार से करते हैं, यानी किस "मनी" में करते हैं और वह मनी किस प्रकार से और कहां से हासिल करते हैं ?

दूसरा सवाल यह है कि अभी हाल में जो सुप्रीम कोर्ट का फैसला हुआ है गोल्ड के संबंध में उसका नियमों के ऊपर क्या असर पड़ने वाला है ?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: As far as the rates of gold in India are concerned, they are certainly higher than the London rates. As for the payment for these, it is certainly in the exchange which is smuggled out of India.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI: May I know if the attention of the Minister has been drawn to a report in a news weekly of Bombay wherein it has been alleged that the gold smuggling that goes on in Maharashtra and specially the gold that was seized in March, had something to do with a very high-up in Rajasthan who is of the ministerial rank and that the persons arrested were connected with him?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri S. A. Khaja Mohideen

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Was it the Chief Minister of Rajasthan?

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI: The implication is, he is the Chief Minister of Rajasthan. I would like to know whether the Government has taken cognisance of that report and, if so, what action the Government propose to take in this regard?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: The hon. Member obviously refers to another case, not to this case. It refers to another case and that case is under further investigation.

श्री प्रेम मनोहर : क्या मंत्री महोदय को यह मालूम है कि जो यह स्मगलिंग करने वाले लोग हैं उनके पास जो जहाज और नावें हैं उनकी स्पीड तो ज्यादा है और हमारे यहां जो पकड़ने वाले लोग हैं उनके पकड़नेवाले जहाजों की स्पीड कम है इसलिए वे पकड़ सकने में असमर्थ रहते हैं। स्मगलर्स भाग जाते हैं और वह देखते रहते हैं। इस बात की कई दफा रिपोर्टें भी हुई हैं। तो क्या मंत्री महोदय के सामने यह बात आई है और यदि हां तो किस प्रकार की व्यवस्था इस संबंध में हमारे वित्त मंत्रालय ने कर रखी है?

श्री मोरारजी आर० देसाई : इसके लिये भी व्यवस्था हो रही है। ओवर-क्राफ्ट इसी के लिये सांचा गया है जिसकी स्पीड काफी ज्यादा है। उनकी स्पीड 30 मील की है तो ओवरक्राफ्ट की स्पीड पचास, बावन मील तक हो सकती है। कुछ लोग पकड़े भी थे। हम इसका प्रयोग कर रहे हैं और प्रयोग सफल हो जायेगा तो हम उसको ले लेना चाहते हैं।

*159. [The questioner (Shri S. K. Vaishampayan) was absent. For answer, vide col. infra.]

‘P’ FORM

*160. **SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PARANJPYE:** †

SHRI A. D. MANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is necessary for an applicant for the ‘P’ form to state in his application the name of his father;

(b) whether there have been cases where, in the applications, only the name of the mother has been given and the applications have been rejected on that ground; and

(c) if so, what are the objections to an applicant stating only his mother's name in respect of his ‘P’ Form application?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) to (c) The ‘P’ Form does not require the applicant to state either his father's name or the mother's name. There should ordinarily be no instances, therefore, where the application was rejected because only the mother's name was stated and not the father's name. If the Hon'ble Members would kindly indicate any specific instances, appropriate enquiries will be made.

SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PARANJPYE: The Minister apparently is not aware of the Supreme Court having given a judgment in a case. A particular applicant having applied for a passport and failed to get it, had to fight it out right upto the Supreme Court. In the Bombay High Court his case was dismissed. The Passport Officers replied that he could not get it and up to the Sup-

†The question was actually asked on floor of the House by Shrimathi Shakuntala Paranjpye.