

(c) what effective measures are undertaken by Government in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI) : (a) There is no fully satisfactory basis for estimating the extent of smuggling of contraband gold and silver. It is, therefore, not possible to state categorically that the smuggling of gold and silver is on the increase.

(b) 3224 Kg. of gold valued at about Rs. 272.1 lakhs at the international rate and 10,973 Kg. of silver valued approximately at Rs. 42.5 lakhs were seized by the Customs authorities during the period from 1st January, 1967 to 30th September, 1967 for contravention of the Customs law.

fc) A statement giving some of the important measures taken to check smuggling is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Among the important steps taken to check smuggling are : systematic collection and follow-up of information, rummaging of suspected vessels and aircraft, patrolling of vulnerable sections of the coastline and land frontiers, launching of prosecution in suitable cases in addition to imposition of heavy penalties under the Customs Act and confiscation of contraband in departmental adjudications. In the field of legislation, the Customs Act now provides for imposition of heavier sentences of imprisonment as a result of prosecution when the market price of the goods seized is more than one lakh of rupees. In the case of seizures of gold, diamonds and watches there is a provision available in the Customs Act for placing the burden of proof that those goods are not smuggled, on the persons from whom they are seized. The scope of this provision has been recently extended to the following goods : —

- (i) cosmetics;
- (ii) mechanical lighters and flints therefor;
- (iii) playing cards; and
- (iv) safety razor blades.

INCOME-TAX ARREARS

112. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total amount of income-tax arrears outstanding as on the 31st March 1967 ; and

(b) what steps have been taken for effective realisation of these tax arrears ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI) : (a) Rs. 541.71 crores.

(b) Some of the steps taken recently for effective realisation of these arrears are : —

(i) Recovery work has been taken over fully from the State Governments in the C.I.T.'s charges of Delhi and Andhra Pradesh and partly in the charges of C.I.T. West Bengal, Madras, Mysore, Gujarat and Rajasthan.

(ii) A scheme of functional distribution of work has been introduced in 67 ranges of the Inspecting Assistant Commissioners under which the work of collection of tax dues is entrusted to Income-tax officers engaged exclusively on this work:

(iii) Responsibility for appropriate action in cases where arrears are outstanding, has been fixed on particular officers, as under : —

Income-tax Officers—Cases of arrears below Rs. 1 lakh.

Inspecting Assistant Commissioners — Cases of arrears over Rs. 1 lakh and below Rs. 5 lakhs.

Commissioners of Income-tax— Cases of arrears over Rs. 5 lakhs.

(iv) Rate of interest in case of delayed payments has been raised from 6% to 9% with effect from 1st October, 1967.

SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS PROJECT

113. SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 232 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th June,

1967 regarding Surgical Instruments Project, Madras and lay a statement on the Table of the House showing ;

(a) (i) production and sale (in numbers) of various surgical instruments item-wise ; (ii) numbers of unsold instruments item-wise; (iii) number of item-wise instruments for which orders were received but are pending execution since its incorporation in 1961 ; and

(b) production and cost of the various surgical items manufactured in the private and public sectors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH) : (a) A statement showing the production, sale and unsold stock from September, 1965 (when the production commenced) to 31st October, 1967 of the Surgical Instruments (in nos.) in

terms of types at Surgical Instruments Plant, Madras is attached.

Orders for Family Planning instruments (Vasectomy, IUCD, and Tubec-tomy) amounting to Rs. 7 lakhs are pending. The instruments have been newly designed and delivery will begin from December, 1967. Job orders for Rs. 7.5 lakhs are also with the Plant. Orders amounting to Rs. 15 lakhs are under negotiation.

(b) Another statement showing the items produced in the private and public sectors and their prices is attached. [See Appendix LXII, Annexure No. 10.]. The prices of I.D.P.L. are not comparable with those of the private sector units. The finished products are of different quality having regard to the materials used and finish. The variation in prices in the private sector is also very large as between one producer and another for the same reason.

STATEMENT

Production, sale and unsold stock from September, 1965 to 31st October, 1967 of Surgical Instruments (in members) in terms of types

Item	Production (in numbers)	Sale (in numbers)	Unsold stock (in numbers)
1. Scalpels	25,205	875	23,864
2. Knives	7,261	155	7,040
3. Pincers	93,362	3,440	89,482
4. Forceps (holding and cutting). . . .	53,986	11,238	42,266
5. Scissors & shears . .	33,315	5,283	27,355
6. Retractors and speculac. .	13,202	604	12,621
7. Hooks, probes and directors	21,580	1,710	19,781
8. Raspatories	3,464	192	3,268
9. Needle ligature . . .	9,999	211	9,743
10. Gauges and chisels . .	6,233	377	5,741
11. Surgical saws . . .	1,157	36	1,120
12. Surgical Braces . . .	4	2	2
13. Curettes and Scrapers . .	3,545	209	3,262
14. Dental Hand Instruments	29,204	249	28,282
15. Tooth extracting forceps .	3,588	852	3,317
16. Dental elevators . . .	4,268	144	4,119
17. Pelvimeter	49	14	35
18. Miscellaneous	10,510	213	10,278
19. Family Planning Instruments	4,401	1,693	3,308
	3,24,423	26,907	2,95,034