

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: May I put a question to Mrs. Alva?

MR. CHAIRMAN: To Mrs. Alva? No, no.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: The rules allow putting questions to other Members in the House.

SMUGGLING OF SWISS WATCHES INTO INDIA

*575. SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to prevent the smuggling of Swiss watches into India;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken and with what results; and

(c) the channels through which this contraband trade is done?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI A. C. GUHA): (a) The Sea and Land Customs Departments keep a continuous watch to frustrate any attempt to smuggle goods into or out of India and take necessary steps to prevent smuggling. In recent months special attention has been paid to the prevention of smuggling of watches into India.

(b) The usual methods are thorough search of suspect aircraft and crew and passengers. Information about any smugglers is carefully gathered, checked and acted upon. As a result of the vigorous measures taken, watches worth Rs. 2.84 lakhs have been seized since April 1952.

(c) Attempts at smuggling of watches into India are generally made through land and sea frontiers and by air. Smuggling through the medium of the post and by passengers and crews of vessels visiting Indian ports has also been observed.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: May I know if the Government is aware of what a Swiss trade paper, "The Watch-maker" wrote on this subject? That

paper wrote that the smuggling of Swiss watches from Switzerland into India has now reached alarming proportions, even replacing the normal trade channels.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is why they have asked for a Criminology Professor?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: The Government is aware of the report in that paper referred to by the hon. lady Member, but the Government is of the opinion that the report is to a great extent exaggerated.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Was there any seizure from the entourage of diplomatic personnel into India?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: The seizure has been mostly in Calcutta and some other ports. I have no information about any diplomatic personnel indulging in smuggling watches.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Is the import of Swiss watches banned?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: There is no ban.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Is there any protective duty on Swiss watches?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: There is a high revenue duty.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Is it a fact that during the 18 months from the beginning of 1952 to the middle of this year, Indian importers could import only 4 to 6 million francs worth of watches, while the actual need of the country was 23 million francs worth?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: That is the report in that paper, but I can give this information that the import during the period referred to by the hon. lady Member was certainly less than that in the previous period, but it may also be due to the import restrictions imposed by the Government.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Is it a fact that some months ago a high-ranking officer

of the Government of India was apprehended in the Jodhpur Aerodrome in the act of smuggling Swiss watches into Pakistan and the matter was referred to the Delhi Aerodrome by wireless but nothing was done in the matter because he was a high-ranking officer?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: I have no information.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the Minister pass on this information to the concerned authorities and ask for enquiries to be made?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Any information given is taken cognizance of. Action is always taken.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: It was brought to the notice of the Government even before.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OFFICIALS ON DEPUTATION

*576. SHRI K. M. RAHMATHULLAH: Will the Minister for STATES be pleased to state the number of officials of the Government of India whose services have been lent or transferred to the Mysore Government from 1947 onwards?

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STATES (DR. K. N. KATJU): The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House when received.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

FUNCTIONS OF THE FOOD INSPECTION ORGANISATION

*571. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the functions of the Food Inspection Organisation; and

(b) what steps Government have taken for its efficient administration?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA): (a) The functions of the Food Inspection Organisation are as follows:—

(i) Laying down the policy and the procedure for the inspection of items of ration scales purchased centrally for the Defence Services through the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

(ii) The inspection, the laboratory test and the despatch to Supply Depots/Military Dairy Farms of items of ration purchased centrally through the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

(iii) The final acceptance of goods supplied under the contracts for items purchased centrally through the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the issue of certificate of payment.

(iv) The categorisation of stocks in Supply Depots with regard to their storage life.

(v) Advising on pest control measures in Supply Depots.

(vi) The framing and the revision of specifications for items of ration of Army Service Corps supply.

(vii) Advising on matters relating to nutrition and ration scales.

(b) The Food Inspection Organisation is under the overall control of the Quartermaster General. The Director of Supplies and Transport, a senior officer of the Army Service Corps in the rank of Major General is in direct charge and he is assisted by adequate technical and non-technical staff. The technical officers working in the Organisation possess high specialist qualifications in food technology, nutrition and allied subjects.

The methods used for examining samples furnished by contractors are standard methods laid down by the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists.