

[17 December, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, whether indigenous edible oil prices has since risen very high, if so, whether additional customs duty is proposed to be withdrawn to make it available to consumer on competitive prices and the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In general, indigenous prices have gone up. Similarly international prices have also gone up in the corresponding period. Keeping in view the interest of both oil seed growers and consumers, the Government has decided not to make any change in the customs duty rate on edible oil for the present.

#### **Smuggling of Narcotics**

2741. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggling of hashish (Narcotic) from Nepal to India has increased enormously during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether Government have investigated the reasons behind this; and

(c) if so, the conclusions of the investigation and the steps taken to check smuggling and apprehend the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Although smuggling is a clandestine activity, the trend of seizures of hashish from Nepal to India, as reported by the different Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, does not show any significant variation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Non-Functional ATM in PHA**

2742. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Bank of India ATM installed in the Parliament House Annexe is non-functional often due to which