

"Seizure of Gold at Palam Airport"

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 Shri P. C. Borooah;
 Shri Rameshwar Tantia;
 Shri D. C. Sharma;
 Shri Murli Manohar;
 Shri Ram Harkh Yadav;
 Shrimati Savitri Nigam;
 Shri Onkar Lal Berwa;
 Shri Hukam Chand
 Kachhavaia;

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the world's biggest gang of gold smugglers was unearthed by the Delhi Customs Authorities at Palam Airport on the 4th December, 1964;

(b) if so, the particulars of the gold haul; and

- (c) Government's reaction thereto?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri Rameshwar Sahu): (a) and (b). On 4th December, 1964, 2 persons one a Lebanese national and the other a Syrian national, were apprehended at Palam Airport and 95 Kgs. of gold were recovered from them. It appears that they belong to an international gang of smugglers.

(c) two persons were arrested and are at present in judicial custody. It is proposed to prosecute them under the Customs Act and Foreign Exchange Regulations Act.

Drinking Water Supply Scheme for Orissa

1474. Shri Rama Chandra Mallick: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the scheme to augment the drinking water supply for Cuttack city and Rourkela town (Orissa); and

(b) if so, the total amount sanctioned for the scheme and details thereof?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) No proposal to augment the drinking water supply for Cuttack city has so far been received from the State Government. A rough estimate for Rs. 1.03 crores for the water supply scheme for Rourkela town was received from the State Government and it has been returned with technical advice of the Central Public Health Engineering Organisation for necessary modifications. Revised estimates are awaited.

(b) Does not arise.

Mental Hospitals

1475. Shri Rama Chandra Mallick: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to establish more hospitals for mental diseases in the country like the one at Ranchi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) and (b). The Hospital for Mental Disease at Ranchi is a hospital for paying patients and it is now functioning also as a teaching institution. There are the following proposals for establishment of the Mental Hospitals:

West Bengal: A 350-bed Mental Hospital at Berhampore, Murshidabad District, at an estimated cost of Rs. 18.69 lakhs has been approved. Constructional works are in progress. An Institute for Mental Diseases is under construction in Calcutta at an estimated capital cost of about Rs. 12.58 lakhs. The constructional works are nearing completion. The Institute will have 100 in-door beds.

Delhi: A Hospital for Mental Diseases at Shahdara with 116 beds is under construction. Land measuring about 87 acres has been acquired for expansion of the hospital to accommodate 200 patients.

Himachal Pradesh: A 60-bed Mental Hospital is being considered in the Fourth Plan.