

(b) A loan of Rs. 20 crores has been advanced to the Government of Burma for economic development of that country. Another loan of Rs. 4.93 lakhs has been advanced to the Government of Indonesia for training Indonesian Air Force personnel.

**Hide-out near for dacoits near
Ashoka Hotel**

*1429-A. { Shri Radha Raman:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a hide-out of dacoits was discovered near Ashoka Hotel recently;

(b) if so, whether any investigation in the matter have been carried out; and

(c) if so, with what results?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Smuggling

*143b. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Gajendra Prasad
Sinha: }
Pandit J. P. Jyotishi:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri Anirudh Sinha:
Shrimati Ila Falchoudhurt:
Shri Balarama Krishnais*
Shri Daljit Singh:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggling of gold and other contraband goods has increased through land and sea borders of India during the last three months;

(b) if so, the extent and reasons for it; and

(c) the steps taken to tighten the watch on frontier borders?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. K. Bhagat): (a) and (b). Smuggled gold and other contraband goods worth Rs. 1,29,44,080 were seized by the Customs and Central Excise authorities during the months of September, October and November, 1957. The seizures have definitely been larger than before but on this fact alone no conclusive inference can be drawn either of the scale or the trend of smuggling.

(c) Various legislative and executive preventive measures such as enhancement of powers of investigation of Customs Officers engaged in anti-smuggling work, delegation of certain Customs powers to border police forces, regular and surprise patrolling of vulnerable sectors of the border and the coast line and closer follow-up of information, have been taken to check smuggling. A Central Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has been also recently constituted to more effectively coordinate the anti-smuggling activities of the various field organisations

Foreign Exchange

*145- { Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Radha Raman:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Hem Raj:
Shri Daljit Singh:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of foreign exchange;

(b) whether there has been any appreciable improvement in the matter of balance of payments position in the last two months;

(c) if so, the details of it; and

(d) the extent to which it has been possible to defer foreign exchange payments?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. K. Bhagat): (a) to (c). The