

Shri Krishna Menon: I am afraid it is going further than the so-called Committee. It did not consider tank manufacture. This matter had been considered and Shri Tyagi, who was himself dealing with it at various stages, knows the position.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether a copy of the report, when finalised, will be placed on the Table or whether there will be a discussion in the House on it?

Shri Raghuramaiah: It is not considered in public interest to do so. It is purely a departmental body whose report will be utilised by the Ministry.

Seizure of Smuggled Watches

*78. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Palam Airport Customs officials seized from a Swiss national a large number of watches on June 2, 1958; and

(b) if so, the details of the incident?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Mr. Charles Henri Sandoz, a Swiss national, arrived at the Palam Airport by a B.O.A.C. plane on 2nd June, 1958. On reasonable suspicion, he was subjected to a thorough search by the Customs Officers and 1150 watches valued at about Rs. 42,000 were recovered from him. The watches were seized and confiscated and a penalty of Rs. 1,00,000 was imposed on him.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if there was any investigation as to the places where he was going and the persons whom he was meeting to dispose of these watches?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It was investigated, but it could not be discovered

where he was going and whom he was meeting.

Shri Prabhat Kar: After the imposition of the restriction on the import of watches up till now, how many smuggled watches have been recovered?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: What is the period? Since the imposition of the ban? I would like separate notice.

Shri Subbiah Ambalam: What was the nature of his visit? Was he a businessman or tourist?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The very fact that watches were recovered from him shows the nature of his visit.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदः : क्या मंत्री जी को यह मालूम है कि केवल पालम हवाई अड्डे से ही नहीं बल्कि पूर्वी और पश्चिमी बंगाल से और गोआ से घड़ियां स्मगल हो कर बराबर हिन्दुस्तान में आ रही हैं और इस काम को रोकने के लिये क्या प्रबन्ध किया जा रहा है ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a bigger question. Here the only question is whether something was found on his person.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know if some other articles were found in the possession of this person? If so, what has been done with them and what are those articles?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: In addition to watches, he had certain dollar currency with him. That was also confiscated.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: What was the amount?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: \$12,001.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if anything is being done to make smuggling of watches a non-profitable business in this country?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: At present, it is profitable. But we can only prevent its coming.