

- (a) the details of goods seized by the Customs officials at different places during the last four months;
- (b) the value of seized goods;
- (c) whether any incentives were given to the officers and employees who seized the goods;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the method by which the goods seized by the Government were auctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Smuggling of Cardamon, Cloves and Cassia

510. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cardamom, cloves and cassia are being smuggled into India;
- (b) if so, the total smuggling or illegal imports have taken place in each of these during the last two years, year-wise;
- (c) whether the Government have adjudicated on such imports without licence;
- (d) if so, the details of each items, adjudication regarding imports in ports like Cochin, Tuticorin, Madras (Chennai), Mangalore, all ports of Mumbai and in other Indian ports during the said period;
- (e) the details of quantity and value of each items on which penalty and other prosecution imposed; and
- (f) the quantity of each such illegal imports which have been regularised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rationalisation of the Stamp Act, Sales Tax Structure

511. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his ministry has organised any meeting of all the State Finance Ministers during May, 1997 to discuss the rationalisation of the Stamp Act, Sales Tax structure and also Value Added Tax System throughout the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the decision taken at the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) A

meeting of the Finance Ministers of all States and Union Territories was convened by the Union Finance Minister on 4th July, 1997 to discuss the report of the group of Officials and Experts of Taxation of Inter-State Sales and the Report of the Committee of State Finance Ministers on Stamp Duty Reforms.

- (c) There was general consensus on the imperatives of reforming the Central Sales Tax and Stamp Duty and introduction of VAT.

Inspection of Coal Stocks

512. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

SHRI MAHAVIR LAL BISHVAKARAMA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of mines of Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries in which shortage in stock of Coal was detected during the last three years at the time of inspection of coal mines;
- (b) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the steps by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) According to the coal stock verification carried out in CIL mines during 1993-94 to 1995-96, coal stock shortage revealed beyond permissible variation of +/- 5% is given in attached statement. Stock verification for 1996-97 is in progress.

- (b) Whenever any shortage beyond +/- 5% variation is revealed in coal stocks, action is taken against the erring officials by the concerned coal company.

(c) To prevent stock shortages, following steps including periodic physical measurement of coal stock are being taken:-

- (1)
- | | | | |
|-------|-------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| (I) | Monthly | - | By Unit Level Teams |
| (II) | Quarterly | - | By Area Level Teams |
| (III) | Bi-annually | - | By Subsidiary Headquarter Level Teams |
| (IV) | Annually | - | By CIL Level Teams |

(2) Check measurements are being undertaken in 10% of collieries having high stocks by survey teams comprising of surveyors other than CIL subsidiaries as members.

(3) Action against erring officials, wherever coal stock shortage is revealed, are taken by coal companies.

(4) Surprise check surveys are also carried out.