

(c) and (d) Under article 141 of the Constitution, the law laid down by the Supreme Court is binding on all courts within the territory of India. Therefore, the foreign matrimonial judgements would be recognised and enforced by the Indian courts in the light of the aforesaid decision of the Supreme Court.

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check smuggling of these precious stones;

(c) the number of persons held for smuggling, against whom cases were filed in the Court and those who have been prosecuted in this connection during the last three years; and

(d) the value of black stone confiscated from these persons?

Surplus transferred by RBI to Union Government

2414. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR KANODIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the surplus profit transferred by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to the Union Government has remained constant at Rs. 210 crores for a decade now;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE):

(a) Not now, Sir.

(b) The surplus profits transferred to Central Government by the Reserve Bank of India remained at Rs. 210 crores upto 1990-91. This was because of the increase in expenditure of the Bank mainly due to higher interest payments to scheduled commercial banks on their deposits and larger transfer of profits to long term operation funds to finance the requirements of industry and agriculture. For 1991-92, the Reserve Bank has agreed to transfer Rs. 350 crores to Government.

(c) As stated in answer to part (b).

gem and Jewellery
[Translation]

Smuggling of Black Stones from Bihar

2415. SHRI SIMON MARANDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the black stones are smuggled to Bangladesh from Sahebganj district of Santhal Pargana area in Bihar;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) :

(a) to (d) Instances of such smuggling of Black stones from Sahebganj district of Santhal Parganas area in Bihar have not been reported. Anti-smuggling agencies have, however, been alerted.

[English]

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Criteria for declaring State Highway as National Highways

2416. SHRI YASHWANT-RAO PATIL
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM } : Will

the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the criteria adopted by the Government to declare any State Highway as a National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : The criteria for selection of New National Highways are as under :—

- (i) roads which run through the length and breadth of the country;
- (ii) roads connecting adjacent countries;
- (iii) roads connecting State capitals;
- (iv) roads connecting major ports and important industrial and tourist centres;
- (v) roads meeting very important strategic requirements;