

authorities during the last three months in the country; and

(b) the value of goods seized and the action taken by Government thereon?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) and (b) Information in this regard is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha

Gold Smuggling

227. Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shri S K Sambandhan:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state

(a) the quantity of smuggled gold seized by Government in the country during the last three months and the names of the smugglers, and

(b) the steps taken against them so far?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai). (a) During the period from 1st December, 1966 to the 28th February, 1967 the Customs and Central Excise authorities seized 740 Kgms of gold as smuggled

Information with regard to the names of the persons from whom the gold has been seized is being collected and a statement containing the information will be laid on the Table of the House

(b) Most of the cases relating to the above seizures are under investigation and adjudication. However, prosecutions have been launched in some cases

Cheating of L.I.C. Policy Holders

228 Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several policy-holders of the Life

Insurance Corporation of India are alleged to have been deprived of about Rs. 50,000 worth of policy claims by a gang of cheats in Delhi recently, and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) and (b) Two cheques for a total sum of Rs 12,123 made out by the LIC in favour of two policy-holders were taken possession of by unauthorised persons, and one of them was in fact cashed by such a person while the encashment of the other was stopped by the Bank concerned. The matter has been reported to the Police and is under police investigation. One person has been arrested in this connection by the Police. In the meantime, fresh cheques have been issued by the LIC to the policy-holders concerned

Backward Areas in Madras

229. Shri Umanath.
Shri C K. Chakrapani
Shri P Gopalan:
Shri K. Anirudhan:
Shri V. Viswanatha Menon:
Shri K M Abraham:
Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of Madras have since sent particulars on the basis of the indicators provided by the Planning Commission to identify backward areas in Madras State,

(b) if so, whether any areas have been identified either by the State Government or Central Government;

(c) if so, the areas which have been so identified, and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay?