

### Cochin Air Port

936. SHRI K.A. RAJAN:

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to expand the Cochin Airport to cope with the increasing traffic in the area;

(b) how long will it take to complete the expansion work;

(c) what is the estimated cost of the expansion scheme; and

(d) what is the total expenditure so far incurred in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) to (d). Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 70.05 lakhs for realigning, strengthening and extension of the runway at Cochin. The work may take about 2 years for completion. The expenditure incurred upto end of May, 1977 is Rs. 15.65 lakhs, approximately.

### Black Money in the hands of Smugglers

937. SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of black money estimated to be in the hands of the smugglers;

(b) whether Government have formulated decisive plans to make the smugglers disgorge black money; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) to (c). The Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators. (Forfeiture of Pro-

perty) Act, 1976 provides for the forfeiture of the properties acquired illegally by smugglers and foreign exchange manipulators who have been augmenting their ill-gotten gains by violations of Wealth-tax, Income-tax and other laws or by other means, whether the properties are held by them in their own names or in the names of their relatives or associates. No estimate has been made of the amount of black money in the hands of smugglers but properties of the estimated value of Rs. 23.86 crores believed to have been illegally acquired by persons to whom the Act applies, are already covered by forfeiture proceedings. The Act is being administered by officers appointed as "Competent Authorities" with headquarters at Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Delhi.

The Income-tax Department is also paying special attention to investigation in the cases of known smugglers and their associates. Special Circles have been constituted at Ahmedabad, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and other places for conducting thorough enquiries into these cases. At the central level, investigations are being co-ordinated by a separate unit set up in the Special Cell of the Directorate of Inspection (Investigation).

### Action against Smugglers who went underground

938. SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether top smugglers who went underground during the emergency have not surrendered before Shri Jaya Prakash Narayan recently;

(b) if so, what is the total number of such smugglers; and

(c) whether Government have taken any further action against them?