

(a) whether Government are aware of illegal food stuff vendors who vend their stuff in the superfast trains running between various stations; and

(b) the steps taken by Government against such vendors and other agencies responsible for this practice so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Zonal Railways conduct drives in this regard. During 1988-89, 38,057 unauthorised vendors were apprehended and 25,470 were prosecuted.

#### Unauthorised occupation of seats

1807. SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that seats in trains are being unauthorisedly occupied by porters and local mischievous elements at Delhi and other big stations and then given to passengers after extracting money from them;

(b) whether Government have received complaints in this regard in Delhi; and

(c) if so, the total number of complaints received and the steps being taken by Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) 6 complaints are received during April 1988 to June 1989 in Delhi against anti social elements only. Surprise checks are conducted in this regard. Porters and miscreants found indulging in this malpractice are prosecuted. The licences of licensed porters apprehended are also suspended or cancelled.

#### Smuggling of Gold and Silver

1808. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that silver and gold from foreign countries are being smuggled on large scale through sea;

(b) if so, the amount of the gold/silver seized from the smugglers during this year; and

(c) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantity and value of gold and silver seized by the Customs authorities during the current year upto 17th July, are given below.

	Quantity (in Kgs)	Value (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3
Gold	5250	166.47
Silver	34222	22.84

(Figures are provisional)