

The increase in the value of seizures need not necessarily mean a spurt in smuggling activities and it could be due to intensified anti-smuggling work.

(c) Anti-Smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery particularly in the vulnerable areas of sea coast, land borders and the international seaports and airports remain alert to check and combat smuggling of contraband. Sophisticated anti-smuggling equipment such as : X-ray baggage machines and metal detectors are utilised for prevention and detection of gold concealed on person of passengers and their baggage/in-cargo. Close co-ordination is maintained with all the agencies concerned in the prevention and detection of smuggling.

[English]

Grant of Ad-Hoc Bonus to Central Government Employees

2996. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enhance the eligibility limit for the grant of ad-hoc bonus to Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when Government propose to take a final decision in the matter; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHUDANDAVATE): (a) to (c). The matter is under consideration. A decision will be taken in due course taking the various factors into consideration.

Construction of Yatri-Niwas at Kapil Muni Ashram in West Bengal

2997. PROF. RADHIKA RANJAN PRAMANIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take steps to construct Yatri Niwas at Kapil Muni Ashram to accommodate pilgrims during the Sagar Mela in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). Government of India has sanctioned construction of Yatrika at Gangasagar, which is the place of Kapil Muni Ashram, through Bharatiya Yatri Avs Vikas Samiti. The Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 17.57 lakhs as 90% contribution of estimated cost and released an amount of Rs. 5.00 lakhs to Bharatiya Yatri Avs Vikas Samiti.

Gold Mines

2998. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new gold mines found in different parts of the country during the last year;

(b) the quality of gold found; and

(c) the estimated quantity of gold which will be available to the country after purification?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) The Geological Survey of India after investigations last year, established gold ore reserves in six prospects.