

Seizure of Gold and Narcotics

21. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of seizures of smuggled gold and narcotics made in important cities during the last six months,

(b) whether the persons involved in the smuggling operations were apprehended and prosecuted; and

(c) the further steps proposed to be taken to curb smuggling operations especially from across the borders and from airports?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) The quantity and value of contraband gold and the quantity of various narcotic drugs seized throughout the country during the last six months from June to November, 1989 are given below:—

	<i>Quantity (in Kgs.)</i>	<i>Value (Rs. in crores)</i>
Gold	3792.77	117.44
<i>Narcotic drugs</i>		
(i) Opium	2298	No precise value of the seized drugs can be estimated as this is dependent upon various factors like: purity, place of origin, local demand and supply etc.
(ii) Morphine	11	
(iii) Heroin	1121	
(iv) Hashish (charas)	4437	
(v) Ganja	11584	
(vi) Methaqualone	562	

(Figures are provisional)

(b) and (c). The Government is firmly resolved to combat smuggling into and out of the country including that from across the border and through airports. Close co-ordination is being maintained among all the agencies (such as Border Security Force, Assam Rifles and State Police) concerned with the detection and prevention of smuggling activities.

Sophisticated equipment such as : X-ray baggage machines, metal detectors, Drug Identification kits, night-vision binoculars are being increasingly used. The Customs Offi-

cers are being equipped with sophisticated weapons like; self-loading rifles.

Apart from penalising the persons found involved in smuggling activities in departmental adjudications, such persons are also arrested/prosecuted in the Courts of law in suitable cases. They are also being detained under the provisions of Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 and the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988, if considered necessary.