

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) & (b). Yes, Sir. Delhi Customs have detected 66 cases involving *inter alia*, misdeclaration of export goods, their over-involving of misclassifications, or export of prohibited items or export of sub-standard goods, with a view to claim higher amounts of drawback during the period 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996 (upto February, 1996).

(c) Two firm exporting leather goods to Russia have been noticed indulging in mis-declaration and over-invoicing of export goods.

One of the consignments was classified and allowed to be redeemed on redemption fine of rupees thirty lacs. In the other case value of goods drawback purpose, has been reduced and their drawback claim also proportionately denied.

(d) Adjudication under the Customs Act, where of necessary is being done.

(e) field formations have been suitably alerted to be vigilant against attempts at misdeclaration and exports of sub-standard goods.

Custom Duty Evasion by Politicians and Bureaucrats

1134. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been cases of misuse of protocol system and evasion of duty while clearing goods without payments of customs duty, resulting in revenue loss worth crores of rupee;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the number and details of such cases which came to Government's notice each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps the Government have so far taken to check this misuse and abuse of protocol system ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c). Some cases, in which misuse of protocol system is suspected, have come to the notice of the Government. A statement, giving details of the cases where extension of protocol facilities simultaneously occasioned payment of customs duty and any other penal action, is attached herewith.

(d) Protocol connotes extension of countries for expeditious clearance of baggage after securing compliance with customs procedures and payment of

customs duty wherever required. For this purpose, the protocol units are manned by experienced officers.

Besides, Intelligence units have been set up at each airports and officers posted to these Units provide inputs for purpose of customs checks if incoming and outgoing passengers and their baggage. Passenger profiles are also used for this purpose. In addition, X-ray machines have been installed in all major international airports which are used for screening passenger baggages on the basis of intelligence as well as random selection. Officers of Intelligence also maintain general surveillance on passengers and visitors.

STATEMENT

Except in international airport at Delhi, on other airport has reported any misuse of protocol facilities during the last three years. Details of the cases wherein passengers' baggage was subjected to customs duty and penal action after due examination, even while protocol a facilities were extended, are given below :

(i) On 18.10.1994, Dr. R. Sridharan, M.P. requested for protocol facilities for receiving two passengers by name Shri M.M Hameem and Shri M. Havichandran. They were, however, intercepted on their arrival from Hong Kong carrying 552 pieces of Computer hard Discs valued at Rs. 44.81 lakhs. In addition, they carried 363 gms. of gold jewellery valued at Rs. 1.07 lakhs. During interrogation, the passengers stated that Dr. R. Sridharan, MP had known about their attempt to smuggle the goods and on arrival he received them and ensured clearance. On further investigation, it was revealed that Dr. Sridharan had been aiding and abetting in smuggling activities. Apart from the adjudication proceedings, Dr. Sridharan and the two passengers were detained under COFEPOSA.

(ii) On 7.11.1995, Shri Kamal Nath, former Minister of Textiles, arrived from abroad. His PS. who was present to collect the baggage, reported, with the baggage in the dutiable channel (red channel) for payment of duty and cleared the contents as crockery and cut glasses. The baggage was examined and a duty of Rs. 1,11,217 was collected. In addition, Redemption Fine of Rs. 25,000 and penalty of Rs. 10,000 was also imposed thereof.

Export of Silk

1135. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of silk exported during the each of the last three years;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(c) the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the export of silk ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) the quantum of silk goods exported during the last 3 year (1992-93 to 1994-95) was under :-

Year	Quantity (in lakh sq. meter)
1992-93	*
1993-94	466.32
1994-95	610.33

* Compulsory pre-shipment inspection by the Central Silk Board had been dispensed with and hence data is not available.

(b) The foreign exchange earnings from export of silk products was Rs. 734.22 crores in 1992-93, Rs. 789.10 crores in 1993-94 and Rs. 937.54 crores in 1994-95.

(c) In order to increase the exports of silk products, the Government is providing assistance to the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council for undertaking various export promotion activities such as participation in international fairs, organising generic promotion stalls in domestic fairs like Tex Styles India, publicity in foreign trade magazines, sponsoring of sales-cum-study tours and

buyer-seller meets, dissemination of overseas trade measures to boost silk exports, etc. Besides, the Government has taken several material under the Advance licensing Scheme, import of capital goods at concessional rate of duty for export production, etc.

Loans by Cooperative Banks

1136. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Cooperative Banks functioning in the country. State-wise; and

(b) the amount of loans disbursed by these banks in each of the States particularly in Rajasthan during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) The details of the number of Co-operative Banks functioning in the country (State-wise) in the enclosed **statement-I**

(b) The details of loans disbursed by the District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) and State Land Development Banks (SLDBs) in each of the States including Rajasthan during the last three years given in **Statement-II** and **III** respectively. In so far as the urban cooperative banks are concerned, they have disbursed an amount of Rs.10132, Rs.12172 and Rs.14795 crores during the years 1993, 1994 and 1995 of which the urban banks in Rajasthan have disbursed Rs. 50, Rs.104 crores respectively.

STATEMENT-I

The number of urban, State Cooperative, District Central Cooperative and Primary Land Development Banks (State-wise) in the country

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of	No. of	No. of	No. of	No. of
		Urban Coop. Banks (UCB)	State Coop. Banks (SCB)	Dist. Central Banks (DCCB)	State Land Dev. Banks (SLDB)	Primary Land Dev. Banks (PLDB)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	63	1	22	*	-
2.	Assam	8	1	1	1	21
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	1	-	-	-