

fact that they are now free to sell the Vanaspati without any price restriction on competitive basis; and

(d) whether any study has been conducted relating to the necessity of importing edible oils this year in the background of encouraging availability of such oil of indigenous origin ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) During the financial year 1984-85 State Trading Corporation imported 15.85 lakh MTs. and from April, 1985 to January, 1986 it imported 10.57 lakh M. Tonnes. The quantity to be imported is decided on the basis of a constant review of relevant factors such as prices, demand and availability of indigenous edible oils.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Vanaspati industry is being supplied imported edible oil upto 30 per cent of its requirement at the normal rate of Rs. 11,500 PMT and 10 per cent at commercial rate of Rs. 13,000 PMT.

(d) Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

Registration of cases against persons for adulteration and wrong measurement in 1985

63. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the cases of adulteration and wrong measurement registered during the year 1985;

(b) the number of persons convicted and awarded punishment in this connection; and

(c) the steps being made by Government at present to prevent adulteration and wrong measurement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) and (b) The information is

being collected from the State Governments and Union Territories Administration, in charge of the enforcement of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Weight and Measures Act and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The Central Government has advised the State Governments and Union Territories Administration to enforce vigorously the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Standards of Weights and Measures Act to prevent adulteration and wrong measurements. Besides, the Government has initiated measures for consumer education and development of voluntary consumer movement in the country.

[English]

Delay in sanctioning Loans by nationalised banks to Bhopal gas victims

64. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of applications for grant of loans to the Bhopal gas victims are still pending with various nationalised banks of Bhopal;

(b) whether recently the position was reviewed and all the nationalised banks gave assurance to expedite the sanction of the loans to Bhopal gas victims; and

(c) if so, the reasons still for continued delay in sanctioning the loans ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that as per the information furnished by 19 banks the number of applications pending for grant of loan to Bhopal Gas Victims was 1987 as on 15th January, 1986.

(b) and (c) As per the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India, 6335 applications were received from Bhopal Gas Victims and out of these 2741 applications have been sanctioned loan aggregating Rs.

139.58 lakhs and 1607 applications have been returned/rejected. The banks have been advised to sanction and disburse loans expeditiously and the progress is also being reviewed periodically.

Evasion of customs duties

65. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of cases which came to light during 1985 involving huge amounts of evasion of customs duties;

(b) the estimated losses of revenues to the exchequer from those cases;

(c) whether there is a proposal to set up a separate body to deal expeditiously with the customs cases; and

(d) if so, the details of its constitution and when it will come into existence ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to set up a Tribunal to decide Customs and Central Excise matters, including valuation disputes, to replace the existing jurisdiction of the High Courts in these matters. The details of its constitution and the date from which it will come into existence are yet to be finalised.

Raids on premises of drug peddlers and smugglers

66. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that country-wide raids were conducted by Government under 'Operation Kal-Bhairav' on the premises of drug peddlers and smugglers in the country; and

(b) if so, the results achieved stating the number of arrests, if any, made in this connection, *the modus operandi* of the persons involved in the racket and their links within and outside the country and the action taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) The one-day operation, code-named, 'KAL BHAIRAV' and conducted on 23.12.1985, covered 135 places in 11 States and 2 Union Territories. The following seizures were effected as a result of the operation :—

Sl. No.	Name of drug	Quantity seized
1.	Heroin/Brown Sugar	85.83 kg.
2.	Charas	59.13 kg.
3.	Opium	30.00 kg.
4.	Cocaine	4.20 kg.
5.	Ganja	15.70 metric tonne
6.	Mescaline	0.243 kg.
7.	Diazepam	10.500 capsules

The total number of persons arrested/detained, including those taken for interrogation, was 40.

As the searches were organised against the drug-traffickers and suspected storage and distribution points of drugs, their links within and outside the country could not be precisely established. However, the seizures clearly establish considerable increase in the smuggling of ganja across Indo-Nepal border.

The field formations remain vigilant in the matter. In addition, appropriate anti-smuggling measures are being taken in co-ordination with Central and State authorities concerned. The intelligence machinery has been geared up. Repeated co-ordinated operations like 'KAL BHAIRAV' will, no doubt, unearth the internal and foreign links of the drug traffickers in course of time.