

(a) whether Government have received any complaint against M/s. Indian Tobacco Company Ltd. on violation and malpractices of excise and custom duty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government will take some special steps to examine the violations thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) A complaint dated the 10th July, 1985 regarding evasion of duty by M/s, I.T.C. Ltd. has been received. However, no case of evasion of excise duty by M/s. I.T.C. Ltd. has come to notice recently. There are some reports of sales of cigarettes in retail at prices higher than those printed, in violation of the provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977.

(c) As the complaint is not specific, the question of taking special steps on the basis of this complaint does not arise.

Smuggling of gold and Electronic Articles

1764. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether smuggling of gold and electronic articles has increased considerably during the past one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to end the smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) The extent of smuggling varies from time to time depending on various factors like demand-and-supply position; profitability, etc. and being a clandestine activity, is not amenable to quantification and comparison. The value of gold and electronic goods seized during the years 1984 and 1985 (upto June) is as under :

(Value : Rs. in crores)

Year	Gold	Electronic goods
1984	10.24	18.74
1985*	27.82	3.50

(upto June)

(c) The drive against smugglers has been intensified. The preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs department has been reinforced in terms of manpower and equipment. In addition, appropriate anti-smuggling measures, both short-term and long-term, are taken in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities. The trends of smuggling and seizures are kept under constant review for taking appropriate remedial action, as warranted.

[Translation]

Indo-Pak Trade

1764. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names and value of goods imported by India from Pakistan during the Last three years, year-wise ;

(b) the names and value of goods exported by India to Pakistan during the same period ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase the trade between India and Pakistan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) : Statements I to III containing requisite information for the last three years for which statistics are available are given below.

(c) Bilateral discussions are held periodically to explore possibilities of increasing trade between two countries. In the last meeting of the Indo-Pak Sub-Commission held New Delhi in July, 1985, indicative lists of products of export interest to each side have been exchanged and both sides have agreed to intensify the commercial exchanges of bulk commodities.

*Figures are provisional.