

reveal that in 76 cases the employees have not undertaken the journey even though they had drawn the advance and in those cases disciplinary proceedings have been initiated. In 39 cases the employees have voluntarily refunded the amount on the pretext that they could not perform the journey for personal reasons.

**Losses suffered as a result of Agitation of Bank Employees**

762. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:  
SHRI A. R. BADRINARYAN:  
SHRI OM PRAKESH TYAGI:  
SHRI BHAGAT RAM:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent agitation of bank employees had any adverse effect on the industrial and commercial activities in the country; and if so, the extent of various types of losses suffered; and

(b) the reasons of this agitation and the steps which Government have taken or propose to take to stop the recurrence of such situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIQUARULLAH): (a) Industrial and commercial activity was adversely affected by the recent agitation of bank employees but it is not possible to quantify the extent of various types of losses suffered.

(b) The agitation of bank employees was in support of their demands for wage revision, DA, increase in other benefits, etc. Negotiations between bank managements and their employees are going on with a view to arrive at an amicable and peaceful settlement.

**Anti-Smuggling Drive**

763. SHRI BASANT SINGH KHALSA:

SHRI G. S. TOHRA:

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a massive anti-smuggling drive in the country recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Pursuant to the integrated strategy which aims, on the one hand to provide facilities and courteous service to the honest tax-payers and law-abiding citizens dealing with the Department and, on the other to deal sternly with and deter the tax evaders and smugglers, in the month of January, 1979 a facilitation drive was launched streamlining the Customs procedures for clearance of air passengers and February, 1979 is being observed as a month of 'special drive for anti-smuggling operations'. The measures being taken in this behalf include strengthening and re-organisation of intelligence set-up at all sensitive points, ensuring more effective use of anti-smuggling equipment strengthening of all strategic customs preventive check-posts along the land borders and mounting of special watch in areas known for storage and sale of contraband goods with a view to effecting their seizures. As a result of this drive, during the first fortnight itself, several important seizures were made to various parts of the country. The value of the goods involved in these important seizures alone comes, to Rs. 83.87 lakhs.