

Gold smuggling

2642. SHRI SHIV KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggling of gold into India is on the high side during the last six months; and

(b) if so, the details of confiscated gold, the arrests made (including Indians and foreigners) and the steps being taken to prevent such smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) Reports received by the Government do not indicate that there is any large scale smuggling of gold into India during the last six months.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Trade Delegations sent Abroad

2643. SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trade delegations went abroad during the last six months;

(b) the names of persons in each such trade delegation and the countries visited by them; and

(c) the quantity of business procured by each such trade delegation and the details of various agreements signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) Eleven.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) Government delegations do not normally negotiate business abroad. Visits by such delegations are for bilateral trade talks and for negotiating trade agreements.

No fresh trade agreement was signed by India with any country during the last six months. However on the expiry of the trade agreement with Bangladesh, a new trade agreement was signed in October, 1980.

Statement

Names of persons in each trade delegation	Names of the countries visited
(1)	(2)
I. 1) Shri Pranab Mukherjee Commerce Minister 2) Sh. V. Kumar, P.S. to Commerce Minister. 3) Shri T.S.R. Subramanian Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce. 4) Shri K.K. Bhargava, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.	Iraq and Abu Dhabi.
II. 1) Shri A.S. Gill, Commerce Secretary, 2) Shri G.S. Sawhney, Member (Customs), Ministry of Finance.	Nepal.