

(c) whether Government have noticed that in some business firms for commercial purposes such as DTC and in the market figures workout in these coins as, for instance, the price of kerosene oil is rupees 1.88 per litre; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard in the interest of common people?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) The minting of one, two and three paise coins has already been discontinued. They are, however, still in circulation. The Reserve Bank of India has been advised to gradually withdraw from circulation these coins by not re-issuing them once these coins are received in Currency Chests. In order to avoid difficulty/inconvenience to the public in completing transactions when these coins are gradually withdrawn from circulation, suitable advice/instructions have already been issued to all State Governments' Union Territories, P. & T. Department, Railway Board etc. to round off all the transactions to the nearest multiple of 5 paise.

News-Item Captioned "Multi-Crore Contraband Racket"

7543, SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been invited to a press report which appeared in the Weekly "Blitz" dated the 19th February, 1983 under the heading "Multi-crore contraband racket";

(b) the full facts of the racket unearthed and contraband goods seized;

(c) whether any persons have been arrested and if so, the particulars thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that Gujarat has become the main centre of smugglers; and

(e) the measures taken to check the activities of smugglers which are on the increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO) :

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Acting on information, the Customs authorities in Gujarat maintained surveillance at vulnerable points at Salaya, Barar and the areas around these places and seized contraband goods including video cassette recorders, colour television sets, two-in-ones and synthetic fabrics, totally valued at about Rs. 56.54 lakhs from a truck on 2-2-1983. Subsequent investigations and follow-up action led to further seizures of similar contraband goods from another truck, two dry wells and a godown in the vicinity. The total value of seizures (including the aforesaid seizure of Rs. 56.54 lakhs) effected is Rs. 2.48 crores. 14 persons have been arrested in this connection.

(d) and (e) Reports received by Government indicate that the Gujarat region continues to be vulnerable to smuggling. Government are fully alive to the situation. The field formations in the region have been instructed to remain vigilant. The preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs department has been geared up and appropriate anti-smuggling measures have been taken in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities. The matter is also kept under constant review.

Agricultural Credit To Tribal People By Financial Institutions

7544. SHRI JAI NARAYAN ROAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the agricultural credit provided to tribal people by various financial

institutions, credit bodies and commercial banks in the last two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that some credit bodies and commercial banks have been declining to provide credit to the tribal people;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the condition made by his Ministry to provide credit to the tribal people ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The following table shows the agricultural credit provided by banks to SC/ST communities :

As at the end of December	No. of Accounts	Amount outstanding (Rs. in lakhs)
1979	11,58,337	18,497.48
1980	14,96,564	25,330.14
1981 (Provisional)	18,32,566	31,872.35

Separate data are not available regarding credit extended to tribal borrowers.

(b) to (d) Banks have been advised to devote special attention and effort to increase the flow of credit to the SC/ST communities and to ensure that at the district level, credit planning takes into account the needs of these communities. The banks have also been asked to consider viable loan proposal of borrowers from these communities with utmost sympathies and understanding and not to reject them merely for want of collateral security or margin. However, in specific cases, applications may have to

be declined if the proposals are non-viable, or if the borrowers are defaulters.

More Vayudoot Services In Rajasthan During 1983-84

7545. SHRI JAI NARAYAN ROAT : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Vayudoot services being operated in Rajasthan;

(b) whether there is any proposal to start more Vayudoot service in Rajasthan during 1983-84; and

(c) if so, the name of places likely to be covered ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION : (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN) : (a) The Vayudoot is not operating to any station in the State of Rajasthan so far. Subject to the availability and development of the requisite infrastructural facilities and economic viability of the operations, Vayudoot has plans to extend air service to Kota, Jaisalmer and Bikaner,

Dispersal Of Banking Facilities

7546. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of unscientific and lopsided dispersal of banking facilities and lack of co-ordination in the expansion of banks ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that several banks were engrossed in the problems of bad debts and heavy loan