

police and the investigation is still in progress. The State Bank of India have further reported that appropriate action will be taken against the persons involved after the police investigation report has been received.

#### Air pact with Saudi-Arabia

4334 SHRI D B CHANDRA GOWDA Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether there has been any air pact between Saudi Arabia and India and

(b) if so the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR KARAN SINGH) (a) and (b) The agreement negotiated between the Government of India and the Government of the Kingdom of the Saudi-Arabia in May, 1971 provides for the operation of two services per week by the designated airlines of the two countries between and beyond their respective territories.

#### Seizure of Smuggled Goods from Coast of Kerala

4335 SHRI VAYALAR RAVI Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the total value of smuggled goods seized from the coasts of Kerala during the year 1972-73 and how they compare with the goods seized during 1971-72, and

(b) how far Government have been able to check the rising trend of smuggling in the area and the steps taken in this direction.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) (a) The total value of smuggled goods seized from coast of Kerala in the years 1972-73 and 1971-72 is as follows—

Year	Value of goods seized
1972-73	Rs 52.68 lakhs
1971-72	Rs 64.22 lakhs

(b) The problem of smuggling in Kerala coast is a matter of concern, though it is not possible to quantify the effect of smuggling. However, the Government have taken various administrative, and legislative measures to combat smuggling into the country. Some of the important measures taken by the Government are as follows.

Systematic collection and follow up of information keeping a watchful eye on the suspected smugglers, rummaging of suspected vessels or aircraft, and checking of vulnerable sectors along the coast and the land frontiers.

Senior officers of the rank of Collectors of Customs, Additional Collectors of Customs and Assistant Collectors of Customs have been posted in vulnerable areas to look after anti-smuggling work exclusively.

Some confiscated launches and a number of vehicles have been placed at the disposal of Customs Officers.

Customs Act 1962 has been amended making additional provisions to take specific measures for the purpose of checking illegal import and export of certain commodities and facilitating their detention. These measures are kept under constant review.