

Commerce and Industry has come forward with a number of suggestions for rationalisation and simplification of the Income-tax law; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The Government always welcomes suggestions for rationalisation and simplification of the Income-tax law from trade and business associations and members of the public. All such suggestions, received from time to time, are carefully considered and whenever any suggestion is found to be acceptable, steps are taken to amend the law accordingly.

Committee on Transport Policy and Co-ordination

1752. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the consideration of the recommendations made by the Committee on Transport Policy and Co-ordination;

(b) the recommendations accepted by Government; and

(c) the steps taken to implement them?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) to (c). As stated in answer to Starred Question No. 302 on November 18, 1965, the report of the Committee on Transport Policy and Co-ordination is in the process of being finalised and is expected to be submitted shortly.

Smuggling in Calcutta

**1753. Shri Vishw Nath Pandey:
Shri Kishor Lal:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggled goods worth Rs 34 lakhs were

seized in the month of September, 1965 at Calcutta by the Customs authorities in which gold, silver, jewellery and watches are included; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The total value of all articles including gold, jewellery and watches, seized at Calcutta by the Customs authorities as smuggled during September, 1965 is Rs. 84,060.

(b) Out of these, goods worth Rs. 7,382 have been confiscated and personal penalty of Rs. 2,650 and redemption fine of Rs. 10,023 imposed. Proceedings in respect of other cases are still pending.

Confiscation of Soda Ash Consignments

**1754. Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that certain consignments of soda ash were confiscated without jurisdiction by the Collector of Customs, Bombay during the year 1953 on grounds of 'sale of licences'; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken to pay the wharfage charges which became due to the Bombay Port on account of the said consignments and which still remain unpaid as a result of the above wrongful confiscation?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Certain consignments of soda ash imported during 1963 were confiscated by the Collector of Customs, Bombay and the writ petitions filed by the party were dismissed by the Supreme Court in their judgement reported in AIR-1967 SC 478.

(b) Does not arise.