

**Chronic Cold**

**2334. Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the Editorial entitled "A Cure At Last" appearing in the *Times of India* of the 4th November, 1966 in which it is said that a discovery has been made by a Berlin specialist for banishing chronic cold in a minute; and

(b) if so, whether anything has been done on these lines in India?

**The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. Sushila Nayyar):** (a) Yes.

(b) Enquiries are being made from the concerned persons.

**Seizures at Madras**

**2336. Shri Brij Basi Lal:  
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:  
Shri Braj Bihari Mehrotra:  
Shri Ram Swarup:  
Shri Balgovind Verma:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that semi-precious stones valued at about Rs. 5 lakhs were seized by the Customs authorities from a passenger on his arrival at the airport, Madras from Colombo on the 6th November 1966; and

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

**The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri)** (a) On 6.11.1966 Customs authorities at Madras seized semi-precious stones valued at about Rupees two lakhs and fifty thousand from a Ceylonese national who arrived from Colombo by air at Meenabakkam airport en route Singapore.

(b) The accused person was arrested and was subsequently enlarged on bail. The case is under adjudication.

**Foreign Exchange Reserves**

**2337. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's foreign exchange reserves have fallen considerably during the last four months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to make them go up?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri):** (a) The reserves excluding gold which stood at Rs. 398.64 crores on 30th June, 1966 came down to Rs. 288.63 crores on 31st October, 1966.

(b) The main reasons for the fall are:

(i) debt servicing payments amounting to Rs. 87 crores. and

(ii) IMF repurchases of Rs. 37.5 crores in July, 1966.

(c) The steps taken to make the foreign exchange reserves go up have been mentioned in the Supplement to the Economic Survey presented to Parliament on the 25th July, 1966. Briefly stated, they are:

(i) Fixing of a realistic par value of the rupee;

(ii) measures to step up agricultural production, which should in due course enable reduction in imports of agricultural commodities and help exports;

(iii) export promotion measures such as liberalisation of imports for export-oriented industries; and

(iv) arrangement of non-project assistance for maintenance imports.