

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of 4 Directors of the company, Wealth Tax returns for the assessment year 1966-67 and onwards have been filed in the cases of 2 directors namely Smt. Kamla Narula and late Shri V. P. Narula. Wealth Tax returns in the cases of other 2 directors namely Shri K. S. Chawla and Shri M. P. Chawla have not yet been filed.

(c) Investigations are still in progress.

(d) The delay in investigation has been due to the fact that the permission of the High Court had to be obtained for the examination of the books of accounts which had been in the custody of Official Liquidator. On receipt of permission from the High Court the cases were fixed in the month of March, 1970. The Official Liquidator is not able to comply with all the notices and submit the necessary evidence. He has to make a reference to the ex-directors of the company to furnish necessary details and evidence regarding completion of these pending assessments. In view of these circumstances the completion of the assessments is taking some time.

(e) Recovery in this case has to be made through the Official Liquidator. A claim for Rs. 2,31,291/- has been filed with the Official Liquidator under section 171(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

**Smugglers apprehended near Gujarat**

4303. SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :  
SHRI MEETHA LAL MEENA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a ship belonging to some Arab Nationals on the high seas near South Gujarat recently carried a huge quantity of contraband cargo;

(b) whether there was a tussle between the Indian Customs officials and the Arab

smugglers resulting in an exchange of firing between the two sides; and

(c) whether the smugglers were finally apprehended and if so, the action taken by Government against the smugglers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) The customs officers intercepted at sea opposite Deman an Arab vessel from Dubai Namdal Razaki on the night of 1st/2nd November, 1970 and seized contraband goods valued Rs. 12 lakhs (aproximately).

(b) and (c). There was no exchange of fire. The vessel was chased by the Customs launch for two hours and 28 rounds were fired in the air and at the escaping vessel by the Customs officers before the vessel was brought under control. There was no Arab national on board the vessel. Nine crew members of Indian Nationality were arrested. Further investigations are in progress.

**General Increase in Freight**

4304. SHRI N. K. SOMANI :  
SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-Soviet Shipping Service has recently suggested general increase in freight by 15 per cent;

(b) whether the all India Shippers' Council recently urged upon Government of India not to allow the proposed increase; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government of India in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The subject is still under examination of Government.