

Owning of a Palatial Bungalow by a Smuggler in Gujarat

5170. SHRI BABURAO PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chairman of the Gujarat Adivasi and Backward official panel drew Government's attention to a palatial bungalow of a notorious smuggler during his tour of the coastal areas of South Gujarat ; and

(b) if so, the nature of action taken in this case and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) The said Chairman has not given any such information to any Customs Officer.

(b) Does not arise.

Alleged Possession of Ten-Rupee Counterfeit Currency Notes

5171. SHRI BABURAO PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the six persons who were arrested recently at Tirapur and Udumalpet in Tamil Nadu for alleged possession of ten-rupee counterfeit currency notes and using them as genuine ;

(b) whether it is a fact that some more counterfeit notes in the same series were found in Uthukuli, Kunnathur and Gobichettipala-yam ;

(c) if so, the total value of counterfeit notes seized by the police in Tamil Nadu and other States ;

(d) number and places of factories turning out, counterfeit currency notes found during last 2 years ; and

(e) the steps taken to root out counterfeit currency ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) to (d). Necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(e) The offences relating to counterfeiting of currency and bank notes come under the

Indian Penal Code, which already provides for deterrent punishment. The offences of counterfeiting and forgery are dealt with by the State Police authorities, who keep a watch in this behalf. The Central Bureau of Investigation also keeps the problem of counterfeiting of Indian currency under continuous study by keeping records of different techniques adopted and by reviewing periodically the appearance of counterfeit Indian currency. They have also created a 'cell' in their Economic Offences Wing to undertake investigations of serious offences counterfeiting currency and coordinating the investigations in the States.

Seizure of Gold Biscuits From a Car on the Bangalore Mysore Road

5172. SHRI BABURAO PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 9.0 gold "biscuits" valued at Rs. 20 lakhs, each weighing 10 tolas, were seized on the 13th October, 1970 from an Ambassador car, near the sixth mile on the Bangalore Mysore Road ; and

(b) if so, the names and occupations of the persons who were found smuggling this gold with nature of action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Officers of the Bangalore Central Excise Collectorate intercepted a car at the sixth mile on the Bangalore Mysore road and recovered from two cavities in the rear seat of the car 960 gold biscuits with foreign markings, weighing approximately 112 kgs. (9600 tolas) valued at about Rs. 20 lakhs at the Indian market rate and about Rs. 8.5 lakhs at the International monetary rate.

(b) Shri Conciccao Fernandez who is a contractor and also runs a taxi at Madras and Shri G. M. Mohammad Iqbal a driver were arrested and produced before the City Magistrate, Bangalore on 14.10.70. They were subsequently released on bail by the Magistrate pending further investigation.

Production of the National Rayon Corporation

5173. SHRI BASUMATARI : Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 40 to 50 per cent production