

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. M/s. Bacardi International and M/s. Pernod Ricard have been granted approval for manufacture of Potable Alcohol, subject to the condition that only Rum would be manufactured out of molasses as a raw material. The other products would be manufactured out of non-molasses raw materials. The approvals are also subject to the condition that no fresh capacity for manufacture of potable liquor shall be allowed and that the existing licensed capacity of the joint venture company will be limited to the licensed capacity of the Indian partner, i.e., the proposed joint venture shall use the existing valid licence of the Indian partner (s) for the manufacture of the proposed products.

- (c) Yes, Sir.
(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Import of Gold

3133. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of gold imported in the country during the last year;
(b) the quantity of gold in the Government stock;
(c) whether the Government have lent gold to any firm for making jewellery; and
(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Smuggling Activities At Border

3134. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ
BHAI CHIKHALIA:
SHRI RATILAL KALI DAS VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the smuggling activities on large scale in some districts of Gujarat and Rajasthan border;
(b) if so, whether some foreign fishermen come there in their boats for smuggling particularly in Bhuj area;
(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to plug the smuggling activities in the State; and
(d) the amount of articles seized by the Government during the last three years in these areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Smuggling Heroin

3135. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has become the gateway of smuggling heroin, hashish and other narcotics to western destinations;
(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
(c) the number of cases that have come to the light during the last three years wherein heroin was either caught while smuggling in/out of the country and the persons at the back of this trade; and
(d) the action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) India continues to face transit trafficking in narcotic drugs from across the borders, especially in heroin and hashish, generally destined to the western destinations.

(b) Government has taken necessary legislative and administrative measures including the following to combat drug trafficking :-

- i) Instructions have been issued to all the enforcement agencies to maintain the utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the stringent provisions contained in NDPS Act.
- ii) The dedicated narcotic cells are operational in Police and the Customs and Central Excise formations in the border States.
- iii) 2/3rd of Indo-Pak border has been fenced and provided with flood lighting.
- iv) BSF and Coast Guards, who are deployed on land and coastal borders, have been vested with powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs on the border in addition to the several Central and State Government enforcement agencies empowered under the NDPS Act.
- v) Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. Vehicles and communication equipment have been provided.
- vi) Reward scheme for informers and enforcement officers is being implemented zealously.
- vii) Quarterly coordination meetings chaired by DG, NCB are held regularly in New Delhi which are attended by all Enforcement agencies involved in fighting against drug trafficking, at the highest level.