

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6931
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2003
HARASSMENT BY DRI OFFICIALS
P.C. THOMAS

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Director General of Intelligence has received complaints of harassment by DRI Officials at Cochin Port regarding import of Cars by NRIs;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether any inquiry has been ordered by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof with action taken by the Government on the basis of inquiry report?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (REVENUE) IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DGRI) received two complaints dated 11.2.2003 & 21.4.2003 from one Ziyad T. Mohamed Koya regarding delay in the clearance of a secondhand vehicle at Cochin port due to investigation by DRI, Cochin.

(c) & (d): The complaints were looked into by the DGRI. On investigation, it was found that DRI, Cochin had received intelligence regarding organised gangs importing passenger cars in the name of poor workers returning to India from Gulf nations after termination of their jobs by resorting to misdeclaration and fabricated documentation. In pursuance of such intelligence, DRI Cochin had investigated the import of a BMW X-5 Jeep by one passenger.

The passenger had filed the Bill of Entry for clearance of the vehicle at a value of Rs. 5.05 lakh only. Investigation revealed that the importer was a newspaper distributor at UAE and did not have the financial means for purchase and import of the vehicle. The value declared was found to be very low. He failed to produce documents to prove the bonafides of the import. Further, he had no money to pay customs duty for its clearance.

In the meantime, Commissioner of Customs, Cochin has been requested to assess and clear the car on merits.

In view of above, no further action on the said complaints is warranted.