

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:567
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2004
ANTI SMUGGLING LAWS
Tirath Smt. Krishna

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `...as anti-smuggling laws go up in smoke` as appearing in the Times of India dated the June 14, 2004;
- (b) if so, the facts reported in the news-item;
- (c) whether foreign made cigarettes are being smuggled through shipping containers in the name of `Dal-chawal` as appearing in the news-item;
- (d) if so, the number of cases registered during each of the last three years in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check such smuggling?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE(SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

- (a) & (b) : Yes, Madam. However, it is not possible to precisely quantify the market share of smuggled cigarettes in India.
- (c) One such case was detected in Mumbai in January, 2003 where cigarettes were mis-declared as `Green Mung Beans`.
- (d) The number of cases of smuggling of foreign made cigarettes is as under:-

Year	No. of seizure cases
2001-2002	4749
2002-2003	461
2003-2004	565
2004-2005	

(upto June 2004) 138

- (e) All Customs field formations including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to prevent and detect smuggling of contraband items including foreign made cigarettes.