

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2598

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2011

RAID ON TIBETAN MONASTERY

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have raided the Gyuto Tantric Monastery of the exiled Tibetan leader, 17th Karmapa, near Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh and seized foreign currency;
- (b) if so, the details of the seizure made;
- (c) the present position of the investigation; and
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to plug loopholes in the flow of foreign funds?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): On 26th January, 2011, during routine checking, vehicle No. HP36D0444 of Shri P.K. Bhardwaj was intercepted at Meharpur barrier in Distt. Una and currency worth Rs. One crore was found by the Police staff. Consequent upon further investigation, residence of Shri Shakti Lama, Treasurer of Karmapa Lama at Sidhwari near Dharamshala was searched and currencies as per exchange value totalling of Rs.564,72,462.07 was recovered on 27th January, 2011. An F.I.R. No.23/1011 dated 26th January, 2011 has been registered at Una Police Station which is under investigation by the State Police.

Investigations initiated by the Directorate of Enforcement under the Foreign Exchange Management Act 1999(FEMA) upon receipt of the above information from Himachal Pradesh Police Authorities are in progress.

Further, Investigation Directorate of Income Tax Department had issued a warrant of authorization under Section 132-A of the I.T. Act, 1961 to investigate and recover the unaccounted Indian currency of Rs. One crore in cash, which was seized by the State Police at Una, Himachal Pradesh. Further investigations of the Income Tax Department are also in progress.

(d) The Foreigners Division in the Ministry of Home Affairs administers the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1911 and the rules framed there under to regulate the acceptance and utilisation of foreign hospitality by certain individuals or associations or companies and to prohibit acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality for any activities detrimental to the national interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Penal actions are taken under relevant provisions of the Act for any violation. The Directorate of Enforcement takes appropriate action on receipt of specific information about suspected violation of the provisions of FEMA, 1999.