

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4717
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2012
Tightening of Customs Law
Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently decided to tighten the customs laws by taking away the power to grant bail for offences punishable with imprisonment of three years or more; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefore and extent by which the new provisions the likely to check goods illegally brought from abroad?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per proposed changes, the Power to grant bail for offences punishable with imprisonment of three years or more would now be exercised by the Magistrate and not customs officers arresting the persons. This would act as a deterrent to check goods illegally brought from abroad.