

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4313
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2014
STEALING OF CONTRABAND
Somaiya Dr. Kirit

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge quantity of Phensedyl Cough Syrup and Hemp (Ganja) is reported as stolen from Customs Godowns at Naxalbari and Siliguri at West Bengal State Warehousing Corporation premises during 2009-13;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry against the customs employee posted at the said office and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) & (b) Yes. The details of four cases of theft of Phensedyl Cough Syrup and Hemp (Ganja) from Customs Godowns at Naxalbari and Siliguri at West Bengal State Warehousing Corporation premises during 2009-13 are as under:

Naxalbari Customs Division: In the year 2012-2013, a quantity of 12900 bottles of Phensedyl Cough Syrup (100 ml each) valued Rs.10.32 lakhs and 840 kgs of Ganja valued at Rs.25.20 lakhs were stolen.

Siliguri Customs Division: In the year 2012-2013, a quantity of 92250 bottles of Phensedyl Cough Syrup (100 ml each) valued at Rs.72.86 lakhs and a quantity of 4300 bottles of Phensedyl Cough Syrup valued at Rs. 2.15 lakhs were stolen.

(c) Yes. Committees constituted to enquire into the incidents have found no evidence of involvement of Customs officials in the theft. However, disciplinary proceedings for negligence/dereliction of duty against 4 officers in all 4 cases have been initiated. FIRs for theft have been lodged with State Police authorities. Police detective teams have initiated enquiries.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.