

(c) if not, the action taken by the Government and RBI against the defaulting banks;

(d) whether the Government of Rajasthan requested the Union Government and RBI to impress upon the banks to increase the investment in the State so that Credit Deposit ratio of the State could be improved as per norms; and

(e) if so, the action taken by RBI and the Government on the request of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the Task Force are being regularly followed up by the commercial banks operating in the State of Rajasthan and improvement of the C.D.Ratio is discussed in the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC).

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The recommendations of the Task Force set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are discussed and the progress of implementation of these recommendations are monitored in the SLBC/Steering Committee on an ongoing basis. As reported by the SLBC Convenor Bank for Rajasthan, the CD Ratio has shown some increase from March 1995 onwards.

Smuggling of Goods

1561. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU :

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL .

SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of landing/smuggling of contraband containing gold, Silver, heroin, foreign currency and fire arms detected and seized, separately, since January 1998 till date;

(b) the value of such landed/smuggled goods;

(c) the number of arrests made in each case and action taken against them;

(d) the cases in which the neighbouring countries were involved;

(e) whether there has been spurt in the smuggling of automatic weapons;

(f) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check the smuggling of weapons; and

(g) the manner in which the seized goods are likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) The details of number of cases of landing/smuggling of contrabands i.e. gold, silver, heroin, foreign currency and fire arms detected by officers of Customs and Central Excise Department during the period from 1.1.1998 to 27.5.1998; value of such landed/smuggled goods and number of persons arrested in each case and action taken against them are shown in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The reports available do not indicate involvement of any neighbouring countries in smuggling. However, some foreign nationals have been arrested in connection with smuggling of gold, heroin and foreign currency. In two cases, relating to seizure of gold, one Srilankan and one Malaysian national were found to be involved. Similarly, in a seizure case of heroin, one Srilankan national was found to be involved. Five Nepalese have also been arrested in connection with smuggling of gold and silver.

(e) The reports available do not indicate any spurt in the smuggling of automatic weapons.

(f) 'Nil' in view of (e) above. However, all field formations are put on alert to prevent & detect smuggling of contrabands including smuggling of automatic weapons.

(g) After following the processes of law, the seized gold/silver etc. will normally get confiscated under provisions of the Custom Act, 1962. Thereafter only these will be disposed of in accordance with Government's policy laid down. Thus, confiscated gold/silver will be sold through customs retail-shops to the eligible buyers. The confiscated foreign currency will be deposited in the Reserve Bank of India. Heroin will be destroyed after obtaining the orders from the designated Courts. As regards fire arms, non-prohibited bore weapons are normally given to the departmental officers on loan basis for anti-smuggling purposes. On request and depending upon the availability, the same are also sold to the Members of Parliament, for their personal use, subject to 'no-sale' condition. The prohibited bore weapons are disposed of to the Ordnance factories.

Statement

(Figures are provisional)

S. No.	Name of the Commodity	No. of seizure cases	Value of smuggled goods seized (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of persons arrested
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Gold	579	907.32	67
2.	Silver	5	9.33	4