

**Alleged Abetting of Smuggling by
Officials**

5898. SHRI RAM SAGAR (Saidpur):
SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the officers/staff of the Customs House and Central Excise Collectories found responsible for aiding and abetting the smuggling activities and tax evasion during the last three years, year-wise and trade-wise:

	1987	1988	1989*
Number of Officers/Staff	25	25	44

*Figure is provisional.

(b) The aforesaid officers/staff are liable for penalty, prosecution and detention under the provisions of Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974. Such Officers also face suspension and punishment including dismissal/removal from service in the disciplinary proceedings instituted.

(c) The details of the cases pending finalisation are being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

**News Item Captioned "Smugglers
Prefer Bullions"**

5899. SHRI RAM SAGAR (Saidpur):
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Smugglers prefer bullions" appearing in the National Herald dated 9 September, 1989:

(b) the action taken against such employees/officers; and

(c) the details of the cases pending finalisation with steps taken to expedite their finalisation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) The number of Officers/staff of the Customs & Central Excise Department found to be aiding /abetting smuggling activities and tax evasion during the last three years are given in the table below:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the Customs officials found to be involved in smuggling activities or helping the smugglers directly or indirectly?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Gold and silver bullion continue to be sensitive to smuggling into the country because of wide differential between International prices and domestic prices. Gold and silver forms a substantial component of the value of seizures made during the last three years.

Persons involved in smuggling activities including Organizers, Financiers, Landing Agents are liable for penalty, prosecution and detention under the provisions of Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974. Statistics relating to seizures, persons arrested, prosecuted and detained in the last three