

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An enquiry was conducted in the matter and on the basis of findings of the enquiry, the contract of the employee at fault has been terminated.

Rise in smuggling activities

1555. **SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the comparative percentage of rise in the smuggling of contraband goods during 1988, 1989 and 1990 till date:

(b) the identified routes found to be vulnerable for smuggling; and

(c) the further steps taken to strengthen those weak spots?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) Smuggling being a clandestine activity, it is not possible to estimate whether the quantum of smuggling of contraband goods has increased or decreased over the last three years. However, the value of seizures of contraband effected throughout the country during 1988, 1989 and 1990 (upto 6th August) as given in the table show an increasing trend. This need not necessarily indicate a spurt in smuggling activities but could be due to intensified anti-smuggling efforts.

Available reports and seizures made indicate that both the West Coast and the East Coast of the country and the borders of India and Pakistan, India and Nepal, India and Bangladesh and India and Burma as well as the international airports and seaports all continue to be sensitive to smuggling. In order to combat smuggling, the anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country including those on the vulnerable spots of the coastline and the land borders and at the international airports and seaports has

been geared up. Close co-ordination is being maintained between all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling. The anti-smuggling formations have been equipped with vessels, vehicles, X-ray machines, metal detectors, night vision binoculars, fire-arms and telecommunication facilities wherever considered necessary:

Year	Value of contraband seized (Rs. in crores)
1	2
1988	443.14
1989	554.59
*1990 up to 6-8-90	387.78

*Figures are provisional

Opening of duty free shops

1556. **SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have opened duty free shops at certain places in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on 30th April, 1990;

(c) the details of items being sold at those shops;

(d) whether Government propose to set up such more shops during the current year and next year for the facilities of common people; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Permission has been given by the Ministry of Finance to India Tourism Development Corporation and International Airports Authority of India to open duty free shops at specified places.

(b) As on 30th April, 1990, duty free shops are in operation at International