

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:** The hon. Member is aware that Shri Subramaniam is not here. He has gone abroad. Regarding the question of West Bengal, he is perhaps not correct in saying that only 82 people have been arrested in West Bengal. Uptodate, 886. . . (Interruptions)

श्री मधु लिख्ये : मैं वेस्ट बंगाल की बात कह रहा था। मैं ने यह कहा था कि पश्चिम बंगाल में 82 स्मगलर्स पकड़े गये हैं, और 68 ऐब्स-कौन्ड कर रहे हैं। क्या यह बात सही है? 82 smugglers have been arrested and 68 are absconding.

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:** That is correct.

श्री मधु लिख्ये : इनकी ऐफीशियंसी देख लोजिये, अध्यक्ष महोदय, 68 ऐब्स-कौन्ड कर रहे हैं स्मगलर्स।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप उनको बोलने बीजिये।

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:** It is not correct to say that 82 people have been arrested.

Regarding West Bengal also, we have already taken steps by taking up the matter with the State Administration and we tried to find out whether these people could be arrested. As regards the effect of excise duty, I have already replied in reply to a question of Shri Piloo Mody that this is not the occasion to discuss what would be the effect of the excise duty. It has already been mentioned that it is the usual practice of the Ministry of Finance if they give some concessions it is done when the Finance Bill is being discussed on the floor of the House, this matter can be discussed. It is not possible for me to indicate just at the moment.

The last point which the hon. Member raised is about what Shri Rajni Patel said. There is nothing wrong in that. Various people have expressed their opinion. And Shri Rajni Patel has expressed his own opinion. Whether the Government is acting as per the advice of Shri Patel or not, it is for

the hon. Member to draw his own conclusion when the Finance Bill comes up.

12.53 hrs.

#### PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

HUNDRED AND FORTY-EIGHTH REPORT

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour) :** I beg to present the Hundred and Forty-eighth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on paragraphs relating to Financial Results and Earnings of the Railways included in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1972-73, Union Government (Railways).

12.54 hrs.

#### COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

ELEVENTH REPORT

**SHRI B. K. DAS CHOWDHURY (Cooch-Behar) :** I beg to present the Eleventh Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.

12.55 hrs.

#### STATEMENT BY MEMBER RE. INFORMATION GIVEN BY DEFENCE MINISTER ON 20-2-1975 IN HIS REPLY TO USQ NO. 422 REGARDING DETENTION OF MAJOR RAMESH CHANDER DHAWAN AND MINISTER'S STATEMENT CORRECTING THE REPLY

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am narrating here below how the Defence Minister, Sardar Swaran Singh has given a wrong reply which was misleading to the House.

In reply to my unstarred question No. 422 dt. 20-2-1975 Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister for Defence stated :

'Question : (c) Whether it is a fact that Major Dhawan made a statutory complaint to the Central Government levelling certain allegations of corruption, misuse and misappropriation of military stores against some of his superiors ;

Reply : Yes, Sir.

The statutory and other complaints contained allegations against four of his superior officers.'