

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

*Friday, March 29, 1985/  
Chaitra 8, 1907 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at  
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *In the Chair*]

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

### Seizure of Goods At Delhi Airport

\*243. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) The total value of smuggled

goods seized at Delhi Airport during the last two years (to-date), year-wise; and

(b) the number of persons apprehended in this connection, and the number out of them who are employees of the Indian Airlines/Air India or other Government Departments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statment

(a) and (b) : The total value of smuggled goods seized and the number of persons arrested in connection with smuggling activities at Delhi airport and the number out of them who are employees of Indian Airlines/Air India or other Government Departments, during the years 1983, 1984 and 1985 (upto 25.3.85) are furnished below :—

(*Value : Rs. in lakhs*)

Year	Value of goods seized	Total number of persods arrested.	Number of employees of Air-India/Indian Airlines or other Government departments.
1983	131	129	1
1984	464	196	1
1985 (upto 25.3.85)	90*	36	Nil

\*In addition, 3 Kgs. of heroin was seized.

**SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI :**  
 Sir, plenty of smuggled goods are available in the market. May I know from the Hon. Minister which are the articles mostly smuggled into India, and from which countries are they smuggled? What action has been taken or is proposed to be taken to check such smuggling? May I know, if any special squad has been deployed or is proposed to be deployed for this purpose?

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :**  
 Mostly, the goods are smuggled into India from Middle-East countries, Arab countries, Singapore and Hong Kong. In regard to the measures being taken to prevent smuggling, we have strengthened the preventive machinery. In addition, punitive measures are also being taken. We have strengthened the X-ray scanning system. We will further strengthen the intelligence and preventive machinery as also augment manpower and equipment required for the purpose. We have also increased checks and vigilance. We have liberalised the package of awards; as incentives for the informants.

We have also introduced three funds for the welfare of the families of the officers who are killed or injured in these operations. Their families will be fully protected. A special fund has also been created for the acquisition of anti-smuggling equipment.

I would also add that smuggling cannot be prevented totally by preventive and punitive measures alone. We have to take some economic measures also. We have taken certain economic measures. We have liberalised Industrial Policy, and the Import Policy some more incentives have been given. We have reduced the custom duty rates in respect of certain electronic goods. We have also to see that this craze for foreign goods is also reduced. This can be done, if we are able to produce equality goods similar to the ones that are being smuggled. To that end, we are taking action,

**SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI :**  
 According to the answer of the Hon. Minister, one employee was involved in the year 1983 and one employee in the year 1984. I would like to know from the Minister to which Ministry they belong and what action has been taken against them or is proposed to be taken.

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :**  
 Sir, in the year 1984, one employee from Indian Airlines, one Mr. Prakas Ram was involved and he has been prosecuted. From the Airport Authority of India three employees were apprehended while taking out three bottles of scotch whisky and 74 dollars. The names of those employees are Kesar Singh, Satyanarayan and Raghubir Chand. From Air India three employees by name Sudarshan Kumar, Sundar Singh and Prem Kumar were involved. Rs. 1,22,020 worth of goods were involved. One person was prosecuted and the second was detained under the COFEPOSA. Regarding the third person, i.e. Prem Kumar, detention order has been issued, but he is absconding.

**PROF. K.V. THOMAS :** I would like to know from the Minister when the smuggled goods are seized, as to what the method of disposal of these smuggled goods is. Cooperatives were taken as agencies for the purpose of disposing of these smuggled goods. Nowadays these goods which are confiscated by the Customs at various air ports and also ports are not being given to the Cooperatives as it was done earlier. Also, other agencies are coming into the picture. As a measure of helping the consumer cooperatives, these items were given to them for disposal. The prices are also not tallying and these things are not being sold out properly. Will the Minister encourage the Cooperatives for selling these articles and get some money subsidised for the purpose of their general business? Also, will it be done in all the cities? I understand that now there are only certain cities for this purpose. I would like to know from the Minister whether all the cities will now come under the scheme for disposal of

these articles, because a large stock is piled up in the customs godowns. Will the Minister consider this suggestion ?

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :** The Hon. Member was pleased to give valuable suggestions. These are noted and we will consider them.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI MADAN PANDEY :** Do the staff of the Airlines also indulge in smuggling activities and if so, what appropriate steps have been taken to curb such activities of theirs and whether are the steps taken are stringent enough to check them from indulging in smuggling ?

[*English*]

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :** When they were involved, we have taken action and what action we have, I have already placed before the House.

**SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA :** May I know Sir, what type of goods are smuggled mostly and from which countries ?

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :** Gold, watches, synthetic fabrics, etc. are the articles that are smuggled mostly. As regards the countries from which these goods are smuggled, I have already answered.

**SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA :** Mostly from which countries are they smuggled ?

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** He has already informed that it comes mostly from the Gulf countries.

#### Nationalisation of Coal Industry

\*244. **SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the data on which the coal in-

dustury was first nationalised;

(b) the date when the last coal company was nationalised;

(c) whether some of the mines have been abandoned and operations stopped there on the groups of organisational and operational difficulties;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the above coal mines are now being given to private sector for operating; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHI) :**

(a) and (b). The coal mines were nationalised in two stages. First, under the Coking Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1972, the coking coal mines which were known to exist, were nationalised with effect from 1.5.1972. Then, under the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, all other mines known to exist were nationalised with effect from 1.5.1973.

(c) and (d) : The operation of Shankerpur pit of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. had to be stopped for operational difficulties on account of occurrence of an underground fire. The operations of Semra, Gidhania, Rauta and Mael collieries in Central Coalfields Ltd. were discontinued due to uneconomic working of these mines.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Mr. Deputy - Speaker, Sir, they are bold enough to reply 'No, Sir'. So many news items have been appearing in the