

(b) The deliberations at the international workshop related to the research aspects of dam safety and identification and prioritisation of the activities

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

News-Item "Indian Currency Being Smuggled Out"

*239 SHRI AJOY BISWAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Indian currency being smuggled out" appearing in "The Indian Post" dated 2 February, 1989 wherein it is stated that Indian currency of high value denomination is being smuggled out to facilitate further smuggling of gold:

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon;

(c) the expected value of such smuggling of Indian currency; and

(d) the corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Available reports and the seizures of Indian currency effected by the Customs authorities during the last few years as shown in the authorities during the last few years as shown in the table below indicate that Indian currency continues to be sensitive to outbound smuggling. High denomination notes like Rs. 500/- and Rs. 100/- continue to be smuggled out of the country as they are convertible in the currency markets of Dubai, Singapore, Hong-kong etc. into foreign exchange. After such conversion, the amount is used for financing inward smuggling of contraband goods like gold, silver, synthetic textiles, watches etc.

(Value: Rs. in crores)

	1986	1987	1988
Seizure of Indian currency	5.67	4.36	6.72

However, since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not possible to estimate the amount of Indian currency being smuggled into or out of the country at any particular time

(d) The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery particularly in the vulnerable areas of the land borders and the coastline and the International airports and seaports has been geared up. Intelligence is targetted against smugglers

including those involved in smuggling of Indian currency. Close co-operation is maintained between all the agencies concerned in the prevention and detection of smuggling including that of Indian currency.

"Railway Yatri" Magazine

*240. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to provide a new magazine "Railway Yatri" free of cost to the passengers;

(b) if so, the date by which the magazine will be supplied to railway passengers; and

(c) the details and other features regarding get up and contents of this magazine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Copies of the magazine "Rail Yatri" are already being made available free of charge to passengers in the reserved coaches of certain selected trains since 28th January, 1989.

(c) the magazine carries literary writings, a variety of articles, features, short stories, poems, information on travel, tourism, sports etc.

**Finance Commission Chairman's
Reported Statement on Resource
Position**

*241. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has seen reports of a statement made by the Chairman of the Finance Commission that resource position of not only the State but the Centre has entered a danger zone and can lead to a severe crisis and a grinding halt;

(b) if so, the factual details regarding resources to which the Chairman of the Finance Commission has referred in his statement; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). According to the infor-

mation received from Finance Commission, the Chairman, Finance Commission, in the course of his discussions with the State, has stated that the trend of mounting revenue deficits both at the Centre as well as the States during the last few years, if allowed to continue unchecked, may lead to serious consequences.

As per the first report of the Finance Commission submitted in July last, taking the Centre and the States together, the revenue deficits in 1988-89 Budget Estimates may increase to 3.3 percent of the Gross Domestic product.

(c) The Government is conscious of the imperative need to contain revenue deficits and there is constant attempt to improve receipts and control expenditures.

**Retired Judges of Supreme Court and
High Courts on Commissions of
Enquiry**

*242. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of retired judges of the supreme Court and the High Courts appointed as heads of the Commissions set up by Union Government during the last three years; and

(b) whether Government are contemplating not to appoint retired judges to head the Commissions of Enquiry in future?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in course of time.

(b) No, Sir.