

**SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN:** The Hon. Minister has mentioned that the Engineering Export Promotion Council has not proposed undertaking any flash market survey for exporting engineering goods.

Has the Government taken any steps on its own in this regard or, is the Government waiting for an initiative on the part of the Engineering Export Promotion Council, as mentioned in your answer (C), to step up the export of goods not only to USA but to all other countries, particularly when these goods of very good standard are manufactured in this country?

**SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL:** I have already said that the Engineering Export Promotion Council identified 27 items which can be exported to USA.

As far as exports to other countries are concerned, they explore the markets. They prepare the reports and those reports are made available to the manufacturers in our country and to the extent it is necessary and possible, to help them in these efforts, the Government does help them.

**SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN:** In answers (b) and (c) the Hon. Minister has mentioned that the Engineering Export Promotion Council has identified 27 new items in 1981 for export promotion to the USA. This is what the Export Promotion Council has done as far as USA is concerned and the items are 27 in number.

I would like to know whether any other efforts are made, apart from the Export Promotion Council, to export more and more items not only to USA but also to other countries or the Government depends only upon the Export Promotion Council without making any other effort either on the recommendations of the Associations or individuals or other agencies of the Government departments.

**SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL:** The answer is in the positive. We have taken steps to give impetus to exports to different countries. There are different methods of encouraging exports. I was answering this question which relates to flash survey by the Government. The

survey is done by the **EEPC** and they have identified the items. In those items also, we are helping them. But there are other methods of helping the sports not only to UA but to other countries also. The Joint Commission meetings are there. Trade Fairs are organised. Delegations are sent and delegations are received. The items are identified and there are many other things which are constantly done by the Government to encourage exports to different countries.

**SHRI SUNIL MAITRA:** I would like to know whether compared to 1980-81, in the year 1981-82 the export of engineering goods to the USA has increased or decreased. If so, in either case, by how much?

**SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL:** The exports are going up. I will give the details later on.

**SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY:** Among the Export promotion councils, the Engineering Export Promotion Council is doing a very commendable job.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether any proposal is received by the Government from the Engineering Export Promotion Council over its autonomy.

Part (b) of my question is whether the Engineering Export Promotion Council has opposed the move about bifurcation of this Council.

**SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL:** This is a question relating to the constitution of the Council. I would require a fresh notice for this purpose.

#### **Smuggling Activities of Diamond Traders**

\*302. **SHRI BHERAVADAN K. GA-DHAVI:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) how many custom raids were carried out within the last two years for combating smuggling activities in the trade of diamond;

(b) what was the result of such custom raids;

(c) particulars of the persons involved and the action taken against them; and

(d) whether Government have received any information detaining particulars of diamond traders who were indulging in illegal trade and activities in diamond trade with regard to its import and export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAT-

TABHI RAMA RAO): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) to (c). The number of searches conducted by the Customs authorities in connection with diamond smuggling, the value of diamonds seized as a result thereof, and the number of persons arrested in such cases during 1981 and 1982 (upto September) is given below:—

#### Statement

Year	Number of searches conducted	Value of diamonds seized (Rs. in lakhs)	Number of persons arrested
1981	33	10.36	5
1982 (upto September)	23	34.85	8

Appropriate action under the law has been initiated in respect of the persons involved. Two of the persons arrested during 1982 were also detained under the COFEPOSA Act, 1974.

(d) Infirmination is received from time to time regarding the persons, including diamond traders, who are allegedly involved in the illegal trade in, and smuggling of, diamonds.

SHRI BHERAVADAN K. GADHAVI: While it is creditable on the part of the Government to have combated smuggling in other cases, so far as diamonds are concerned, it appears from the statement, the activities have been on the increase because, in 1981, 33 raids were conducted and the value of the goods captured was Rs. 10.36 lakhs while in 1982 the number of raids conducted was 23 and the value of goods seized was Rs. 34.85 lakhs. I want to know whether Government is aware that certain big diamond traders have got offices abroad and by manipulating, by under-invoicing and over-invoicing they indulge in smuggling activities and whether this figures includes the seizures made at airports when people come from abroad.

SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO: Yes; Sir; the figure includes to the extent that we were able to make out.

SHRI BHERAVADAN K. GADHAVI: With regard to part (d) of my question....

AN HON. MEMBER: We could not hear the reply.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think, your reply has not been heard. You can repeat.

SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO: To the extent possible they have been included.

AN HON. MEMBER: To what extent?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: To which extent you wanted it to be included, to that extent.

SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO: The difficulty is that they have their own agencies outside by relations, friends or some people abroad. It is difficult to identify actually which of them are concerned in these things.

**SHRI BHERAVADAN K. GADHA VI:** With regard to part (d) of the question, the answer given is, I am afraid, most evasive. I want to ask whether Government was furnished with details of names of persons who indulge in smuggling activities in diamond trade..

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Do they do it with their approval?

**SHRI BHERAVADAN K. GADHA VI:** I want to know whether the Government was apprised of the names of persons who are indulging in these activities and whether any action was taken or any raid or any investigation was done with regard to those persons and if not, why.

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):** We have some information and particularly the names of the persons which the hon. Member has in mind. But because of the very nature of this case, I cannot tell what action I am going to take.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is true that, when one V.I.P. from Andhra some years back came by plane, all of a sudden from his luggage a number of diamonds were scattered on the floor of the aeroplane, whether they were identified as to whom they belonged and whether it was found out that they belonged to some smugglers. *(Interruptions)* No objection to the name of the VIP being disclosed.

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** Sir, I have no information.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** I am not asking him that there should be investigation with retrospective effect. I want to know whether, at that time, something was done.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** You wanted to know whether Government is aware of it.

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** This is about a specific case. You cannot expect me to come forward with what

happened everywhere and every part of the country.

**श्री विलीप सिंह कूरिया :** उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हीरे-पन्ने खास तौर से मध्य प्रदेश की खदानों से निकलते हैं। पहले यह व्यवस्था थी कि ये हीरे-पन्ने वहीं के वहीं नीलाम कर दिए जायें लेकिन सरकार ने अब यह व्यवस्था कर दी है कि जहाँ भी इसकी माँट मिले—चाहे लंदन में, बम्बई में, मद्रास में। वह जाकर उसकी नीलाम किया जाए। इसी कारण इसमें स्मगलिंग होता है। जहाँ खदान होती है अगर वहीं पर इनकी नीलाम किया जाए तो यह स्मगलिंग रूक सकता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ क्या सरकार इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था करेगी।

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** The appropriate administrative ministry will have to look into it. My Ministry is not the appropriate ministry here.

**DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, this is a very serious question.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** I know you always put a very serious question.

**DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:** Question No. 302 is also a very serious one.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The question is 302.

**DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:** During the Janata regime, there was an unholy trade in Orissa. What was that? With the connivance of a bureaucrats, politicians and the contractors, in the districts of Bolangir and Kalahandi, there is a zone where a lot of precious stones like diamond, panna and other things available have been smuggled outside to London. In London, the cost of one diamond is worth more than Rs. 5 crores. May I know whether the Minister has got any knowledge about it and if no information has been received by the Ministry, whether the Ministry will investigate the matter and instruct the State to delineate that area for prospecting and for the proper security of that area?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** Yes, Sir. If I have some more detailed information. I shall definitely look into it. Presently, I have no information. One point I would like to submit. When I was in the Ministry of Steel and Mines, this type of information we used to have. Mere presence of the precious stones or metals do not indicate that these can be economically made viable. Take the case of gold. The presence of gold-content may be anything between eight to ten grammes per pound. This can not be made economically viable. So, mere presence is not adequate to indicate that it can be commercially explored. So, in many parts of the country, there is existence of precious stones and metal. Whether that can be made economically viable or not, only the administrative ministry, the Steel and Mines will make an assessment. The Geological Survey of India will go there to take care of it.

In regard to smuggling, as I have already mentioned, it is increasing. We are taking appropriate measures and we are already conducting a large number of seizures and the value of the articles seized indicate that some positive actions are being taken in those respects.

#### Construction of separate Civilian Airport at Siliguri

\*303. **SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) it is a fact that there are some flight restrictions and restrictions on the construction of buildings at the airport at Bagdogra as Bagdogra is an Airport fully controlled by the Defence.

(b) whether it is a fact that people who come to see off or receive their air passengers very often are harassed in the Defence area; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have got any plan and programme to construct a separate Airport in or around Siliguri to give facilities to the civilian passengers of North Bengal?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF CIVIL AVIATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD):** (a) Yes Sir. There is however a Civil Air Terminal Complex also located at this airport.

(b) No case of harassment has been reported.

(c) No, Sir.

**SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you will find that the hon. Minister has at least admitted that there is an acute scarcity of accommodation in the Bagdogra airport. Regarding (b) he says that no harassment has been reported. How rickshawallahs, taxiwallas and scooterwallas can make any report of harassment to the Defence personnel. This Airport is purely controlled by the Defence and there is a night landing facility in Bagdogra Airport. But they do not allow the aircraft to land. Even in the case of civil flight, there is no chance to land there after 5 P.M. even in summer and the Airport itself is far away from the Bagdogra Main Road. Terminus station is far away from the Public Road and no thoroughfare is allowed. Even the rickshaws are not allowed to move there. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would take up all these matters with the Defence, that is, allowing night landing facilities to the Indian Airlines aircrafts in the Bagdogra Airport, allowing public thoroughfare by Airport Road, etc. What steps have been taken so far to construct new building accommodation for solving the acute accommodation problem in the Airport?

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD:** We have no complaints from the Defence Ministry. Though this Bagdogra Airport is the military Airport, we have got their permission for the Indian Airlines to operate there and we do not require any permission for every flight. So far as the civil air terminal complex is concerned, it is true that we want to extend it because we have now started Boeing 737 and therefore we have got more passengers, we require more facilities and benefits and therefore we have allocated Rs.