

goods worth Rs. 60.71 crores were seized during the first 11 months of 1982 as against goods worth Rs. 36.22 crores of goods seized during the corresponding period of the previous year;

(b) if so, total number of persons arrested and the action taken; and

(c) the steps being taken to meet the smuggling threat in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO): (a) and (b). The value of smuggled goods seized by the Custom authorities and the number of persons arrested for involvement in smuggling activities during the first eleven months of 1981 and 1982 are given below:—

Period	Value of Goods seized (Rs. in crores)	Number of persons arrested.
January to November, 1981.	36.22	2031
January to November, 1982.	61.23	2138

Action as warranted under the law, including action under the COFEPOSA Act, 1974, in appropriate cases, is taken against the persons arrested/ found involved.

(c) Towards implementing point No. 19 of the 20-point programme which calls for continued strict action against smugglers, hoarders and tax evaders, Government have formulated a plan of Action, in terms of which the anti-smuggling drive has been stepped up. The measures taken under the Plan of Action include strengthening of the preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs department intensified application of the provisions of the COFEPOSA Act, 1974, concerted patrolling of the vulnerable areas, and greater co-ordination with the other concerned authorities of the Central and State Governments. The matter is also kept under constant review.

Arrest of Indian Citizens by Customs at Kathmandu

*304. SHRI GULSHER AHMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report captioned 'Caught' published in 'Current' Weekly of 12 February, 1983 alleging arrest of some Indian citizens by Customs at Kathmandu International Airport and recovery of undeclared foreign exchange and if so, full facts thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that Holiday Nepal and Enjoy Nepal package tour offices in India are links for laundering of Indian black money, if so, measures adopted to stop such menace; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to utilise the services of economists and experts on the problem of black money in order to eradicate the evil of black money which is playing havoc with India's economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO): (a) The Press Report, referred to has been brought to the notice of the Government Enquiries made in this connection with Nepalese Custom Authorities revealed that on 25th January, 1983, three Indian nationals namely Shri Arun Jain, his wife Patricia Jain and one Kajal Jain were apprehended by them at Tribhuwan Airport when they attempted to carry US \$3146 while embarking for Hongkong by a RNAC flight. Shri Arun Jain was arrested, but after paying some penalty was released after a few days.

(b) Based on the available information enquiries have been initiated for possible action under the Indian laws. The enquiries are at preliminary stage. It will not be expedient in the interest of effective enquiries to disclose further details at this stage.

(c) The National Institute of Public Finance and Policy has been entrusted with the study of the problem relating to black money.

Night landing facilities for Chandigarh Airport

*305. SHRI CHIRANJILAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to provide Chandigarh Airport with night landing facilities in the near future;

(b) if so, how soon such facilities are likely to be provided; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) Night landing facilities already exist at Chandigarh airport.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Programme for Vayudoot service for West Bengal

*306. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state what are the details of the programme of the Centre for the Vayudoot service in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): Vayudoot proposes to connect Cooch Behar in West Bengal after the requisite infrastructural facilities have been developed. Development of Cooch Behar aerodrome is in hand and is likely to be completed by June, 1983. The work involves building and aerodrome and a runway, installation of telecommunication and navigational aids.

US Businessmen Keen to invest Money in India

*307. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether U. S. Businessmen have expressed their desire to invest money in India;

(b) if so, how many U.S. businessmen have started negotiation with his Ministry for that purpose;

(c) in what type of business do they intent to invest money; and

(d) the reaction of Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Government have taken note of the growing desire of many U.S. companies to make investments and enter into technology arrangements with Indian companies. Such investment and collaboration in high technology and export oriented units is welcome. Negotiations for these purposes take place with their counter-parts in the country and not with the Government.