

have made arrangement that out of this Rs 170 crores, two-thirds would come from co-operatives and one-third will have to be channelled through certain organisations which will have to be evolved in consultation with the state governments

**SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO** May I know whether the Ministry is prepared to open regional rural banks in the state of Orissa so the unbanked area will be covered by banking loans?

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE** We have already some regional banks there

श्री नाथूराम अहिरवार अ.प्र.प्र.  
महोदय, जब मे यद् बीज-पत्री कार्यक्रम लागू हुआ है, ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में दान, हरिजन, आदिवासी को ऋण मुक्त किया गया है, अब उनको किसी भी दान से ऋण नहीं मिल रहा है। गांव में जो लोग छोटे मोटे धंधे करते हैं, मेरी व्यक्तिगत जानकारी है, मेरे काशग करने के बावजूद भी राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों से उन्हें कोई ऋण नहीं मिला। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस के बारे में सरकार ने कौन मो कार्यवाही की है ताकि उन लोगों को ऋण मिल सके ?

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE** About the weaker sections it is true we have not been able to take care of all the population who require assistance

**MR. SPEAKER:** You are making efforts. Next question.

### Smuggling of Gold

\*261 **SHRI VASANT SATHE** Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the steep fall in the international gold prices, substantial quantities of gold are being smuggled into the country from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal, and

(b) if so action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE**):

(a) Available information shows that there is hardly any increase in gold smuggling through the Indo-Bangladesh and Indo-Nepal borders with the steep fall in the international gold prices. However, intelligence reports indicate that smuggling of gold from Pakistan to India has of late started picking up the reason primarily being the high margin of profit involved in gold smuggling.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

#### STEPS GOVERNMENT HAVE TAKEN TO CHECK GOLD SMUGGLING INTO THE COUNTRY

1 The Border Security Force which mans the Indo-Pakistan border and is the principal anti-smuggling force armed with powers of search, seizure, and arrest under the Customs Act, 1962 has intensified its patrolling, ambushes and general surveillance

2 Smugglers, their associates and accomplices have been detained under Conservation of Foreign Exchange & Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, Defence of India Rules and the Maintenance of Internal Security Act.

3. The Customs Preventive machinery has been strengthened and intelligence set-up also geared up for better results.

4. A wireless network has recently been installed by the Customs Department for instant communication about the movement of suspects.

5. Officers engaged in anti-smuggling work are being imparted special training.

6. Patrols have been organised along the rail track from border to Attari and other vulnerable areas.

7. Rummaging of the trains and road vehicles and other traffic checks are being carried out.

8. Frequent meetings are held at high level between officers of customs, State Police and the Border Security Force for mutual exchange of information and devising of effective means for prevention of smuggling.

9. Preventive activities on Indo-Bangladesh border have been intensified and border stations alerted to combat smuggling. The border is being manned by the Border Security Force. A close vigil is being maintained by the Border Security Force and Customs to check smuggling. Preventive Detention under COFE-POSA Act has also been made against smugglers.

10. A separate Collectorate of Customs (Preventive) exists for the entire Indo-Nepal border. Regular meetings of officers posted in the Indian land Customs Stations on Indo-Nepal border are being held with their counterparts in Nepal. The Collector of Customs, Patna, has periodical meetings with Director of Customs, His Majesty's Government, Nepal. Mobile Preventive parties patrol the border. Ex-army sepoy have been recruited in large numbers in the rank of sepoy for preventive duties. Jeeps have been provided to the supervisory

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officers in the preventive formations. Preventive detentions of smugglers have also been made under the COFEPOSA Act.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** May I know whether it is a fact that in Gujarat certain MLAs are involved in this smuggling racket? They were arrested under MISA for this very offence and they have been released on parole. Is the Minister aware of these activities where even political persons including independent MLAs are involved? What is the government doing to prevent smuggling? It is profitable, true, but is it profitable for the country?

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:** I do not know about this specific case, I will have to look into it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Question Hour is over.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### **Implementation of Directives under 20-Point Economic Programme by I.T.D.C.**

\*242. **SHRI K. MALLANNA:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had issued directives under the 20-Point Economic Programme for strict adherence to observe economy in administrative and non-plan expenditure like overtime, entertainments, travelling, recruitments and promotions; and

(b) if so, whether India Tourism Development Corporation has also implemented such directives strictly in observance of austerity?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL  
AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL  
SINGH):** (a) Yes, Sir. Instructions