

these operations, 41.1 kgs. of hashish, 36.05 kgs. of hashish oil and 0.25 kg. of ganja totally valued approximately at about Rs. 45.00 lakhs were seized on 14th October, 1977.

(c) On verification, it was reported that there were no further stocks of smuggled hashish which could be seized. However, the enforcement agencies are maintaining a careful watch to prevent any attempt to smuggle these items into the country.

India's participation in 5th Tehran International Trade Fair

*262. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that India participated in the 5th Tehran International Trade Fair in September, 1977;

(b) how many Indian Business and Industrial units participated in this Fair and what part did Government play in display of Indian goods in this fair;

(c) the total expenditure incurred in participating in this fair and the actual booking of orders from India and value thereof;

(d) the number of traders and orders anticipated from the pending negotiations; and

(e) is it true that most of these orders are nearly repeat orders of previous business contract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Seventy Indian firms including Public Sector Undertakings and renowned private industrial units participated in the Fair. The Trade Fair Authority of India on behalf of the Government made detailed arrangements

for participation, namely selection, collection and transportation of exhibits as well as construction and setting up of the Indian Pavilion in Tehran and provided facilities for trade negotiations.

(c) The total estimated expenditure incurred on participation in this fair is Rs. 23.75 lakhs which includes foreign exchange element of Rs. 16.25 lakhs. Export orders backed by Letters of Credit to the extent of Rs 2.84 crores were booked by the participants.

(d) The number of foreign traders were fifty and the orders of over Rs. 7.4 crores are anticipated from the pending negotiations with them.

(e) No, Sir.

Import of Gold to stop Smuggling

*263 SHRI G. M. BANTAWALLA. SHRI UGRASEN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to import Gold to stop smuggling of this high priced metal and to meet the growing demand of the people;

(b) if so, broad outlines of the proposal; and

(c) its effect on country's foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) to (c). Suggestions had been made in the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Finance that Government should consider the advisability of importing gold as one of the methods for containing smuggling. Those suggestions had been noted. Government have so far taken no decision in the matter.