

letter to all M.P.s asking their help to check smuggling. In view of this and in view of the fact that many of the detention orders have not been executed, may I ask what is the value of smugglers' properties that have been confiscated by this Government ever since Mr. Patel took over charge of the Finance Ministry.

**SHRI H. M. PATEL:** First of all, I think none of these arises out of this. But I can tell you that about 41 people's properties have been confiscated. The value is somewhere round about Rs. 10 crores. I cannot give you the exact figures because you are asking off hand.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Study regarding impact of release of detenus under COFEPOSA

\*85. **SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made a fresh study of the impact of the release of detenus under COFEPOSA after the emergency was lifted and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether those persons are being prosecuted for their economic offences and if so, the action taken against them; and

(c) whether it is proposed to amend the COFEPOSA in order to deal with the economic offenders effectively and if so, the broad outlines thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL):** (a) Reports received by Government indicate that there has not been any spurt in smuggling activities after the release of the smugglers on revocation of emergency and that the top smugglers are lying low. Although there were reports of re-grouping and attempts at revival of smuggling, those are not confirmed by any actual

seizures, in spite of exercising greater vigilance and taking intensive preventive steps.

(b) Yes Sir, necessary action under the law (including prosecution) is also taken in appropriate cases.

(c) No Sir, there is no proposal at present to amend the COFEPOSA Act.

##### Price, availability and distribution of mustard and rapeseed oil

\*86. **SHRI L. L. KAPOOR:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of the import of edible oil for the Vegetable Oil Industry to the extent of about 6 lakh tonnes and also the production at the previous year's level, the price of vegetable oil in the market ruled high;

(b) if so reasons therefor and the steps taken to remove such situation;

(c) whether a huge quantity of rapeseed oil has been imported and if so, the total value and quantity since April, 1977 month-wise along with figures for its distribution State-wise;

(d) whether in spite of the fixation of price of mustard oil at Rs. 10 per Kg. no mustard oil is available in the States of U.P., Bihar and West Bengal at this price;

(e) have there been any complaints for the adulteration of mustard oil by rapeseed oil; and

(f) action taken or proposed to be taken to check such malpractices?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI K. K. GOYAL):** (a) and (b). The price of vanaspathi of 16.5 kg. tin (inclusive of excise duty but exclusive of local taxes) was