

कासर्गोड (केरल) में तस्करी की गतिविधियाँ

* 83. श्री यादवन्द्र दत्त : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या तस्करी ने पुनः तस्करी का काम चालू कर दिया है और इनका केन्द्र अब केरल के उत्तरी हिस्से में एक छोटा सा बन्दरगाह, कासर्गोड हो गया है और यदि हाँ, तो तस्करी की गतिविधियों को रोकने के लिए सरकार क्या व्यवस्था कर रही है ;

(ख) क्या ये तस्करी विदेशों से तीन सौ अथवा चार सौ करोड़ रुपये तक के सामान विशेषकर उपभोक्ता सामान की तस्करी कर रहे हैं और यह सारा सामान मुख्यतः कर्नाटक और महाराष्ट्र में बिकता है ; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो इस संबंध में सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Reports received by the Government do not indicate that the smugglers have started indulging in smuggling activities in a big way. These reports further do not show that Kasargod (in the northern part of Kerala) has become the centre of such activities. On the other hand the reports indicate that there is no increase in the smuggling activities as evidenced by such indicators as the decreasing quantum of seizures of contraband goods by the Customs authorities and the increase in inward remittances (non-trade) from abroad. Regarding the sale of smuggled goods in Karnataka and Maharashtra, reports indicate that these goods are not freely available in these places. On verification, it was found that some of the items which were exhibited for sale were in fact spurious.

(c) Although smuggling continues to be effectively contained Government have launched a three-pronged

attack to check smuggling by strengthening the preventive and enforcement machinery, resorting to selective use of the provisions of COFEPOSA Act, 1974 and by taking appropriate economic measures to increase the availability of sensitive items at reasonable prices.

SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT: The hon. Minister has said that smuggling is still going on in a small way if not in a big way. Is it a fact that small things which can be smuggled very easily and are expensive are smuggled into Kasargod and then sold at Bombay and other towns of Maharashtra?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: As I said, smuggling is still continuing but we have to my mind succeeded in containing it effectively. Only in regard to diamonds, it might be interesting to my hon. friend to know that only within the last 48 hours diamonds worth Rs. 50 lakhs were seized from a foreigner who was coming in. So, it is not as if these matters are outside the knowledge of the Government. But, as I said, every effort is being made and further stringent measures are being taken in spite of the fact that our information and assessment is that smuggling is very considerably contained.

SOME HON. MEMBERS rose.

MR. SPEAKER: You are all old Members. The hon. Member is still to put his second supplementary.

SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT: They are too impatient.

As the hon. Minister himself said that within the last 48 hours, contraband diamonds worth Rs. 50 lakhs were seized. Rs. 50 lakhs is not a small thing. I want to know how much worth of diamonds were smuggled into the country before this 50 lakhs catch. Has the Government any information? After all it is only the tip of the ice-berg and the ice-berg is still below and Kasargod has

become a centre for these small but very precious things which are smuggled regularly from there. Has the Government any information on this point?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I do not know what the hon. Member wants me to say. It is a matter of opinion whether it is the tip of the ice-berg or the bottom of the ice-berg....

SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT: It is only a matter of evasion. It is not a matter of opinion.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: I think you are aware that the diamonds which are being smuggled in are for the purposes of re-export. In this country diamonds are not like gold, etc. These are imported in order to be cut and re-exported and re-exports are going on in a substantial quantity and one can check whatever comes in legitimately and whatever is being re-exported, and, therefore, the country is earning and it is possible to check these things. Therefore, I say... (Interruptions).

SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Smuggling is going on. The question is whether it is going on in a small scale or in a big scale. But it is going on. Gold is one of the most important items which are being smuggled into the country. In this connection may I ask the hon. Minister whether he will consider import of gold in order to reduce gold smuggling at least to the extent of the value of silver which the government is allowing to be exported through STC and also the value of the gold ornaments which are being exported. Will the government allow the import of gold to reduce smuggling ultimately?

MR. SPEAKER: The question does not arise.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: It is connected to checking of smuggling.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The hon. Member has made some suggestions which will be taken note of.

श्री किरंती प्रसाद : माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी ने इस प्रश्न के उत्तर में बताया है कि 48 बंटे में पचास लाख रुपये की तस्करी का सामान प्राप्त हुआ है। मैं उनसे यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो तस्करी करने वाले लोग हैं इनको हमारे देश में किन लोगों का संरक्षण प्राप्त है और किन किन देशों के द्वारा उनको प्रभय दिया जाता है ?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The smugglers belong to a number of nationalities—including Indians and foreigners.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR: In spite of the efforts of the Government to check smuggling, we are finding that smuggling activities are going on the border of Nepal—especially on the area adjacent to Western Bihar and Eastern U.P. I would like to know what steps are now being taken especially in that area?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Hon. member should realise also the difficulties in a country which has such a long land frontier, with a long sea coast also. The areas are patrolled as they should be.

As I have already said in my original reply that steps are being taken to strengthen the preventive machinery. Whatever information my hon. friend has, he may pass on to me to enable me to deal with it.

SHRI L. K. DOLEY: May I know the number of persons arrested so far and the nature of offence committed by those smugglers during the Janata regime?

MR. SPEAKER: He will require notice.

Strike by employees of Indian Airlines

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*84. **SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:**

SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: