

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) There are no prescribed qualifications or pre-requisites for posting of Section Officers of the offices in Indian Audit and Accounts Department to the Audit Offices in London and Washington. Serving Section Officers with very good record of service are considered for such posting.

(b) Postings so far made have been from panels prepared by duly constituted Departmental Promotion Committees.

Seizure of contraband Goods off Bombay Coast

*922. **SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARASTE:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Arab Dhow with contraband goods valued at Rs. 28 lakhs was seized off Bombay coast in February-March, 1978;

(b) if so, the nature of goods seized;

(c) the number of persons arrested and their nationality;

(d) the total amount of smuggled goods seized off Bombay coast during the year 1977-78 and its value and the nature of goods seized; and

(e) how the seized goods have been disposed off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGRAWAL): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. On 25-2-1978, an Arab Dhow valued at Rs. 2 lakhs along with contraband goods valued at Rs. 28 lakhs was seized off Bombay Coast. The contraband goods mainly consisted of textiles and watches. Eight persons were arrested. Of these, five persons were Pakistani nationals and three Indian nationals.

(d) During the year 1977, contraband goods such as gold, watches,

synthetic fabrics etc. totally valued at about Rs. 18.68 crores were seized off Bombay Coast in the jurisdictions of Customs (Preventive) Collectorate Bombay and Central Excise Collectorate, Pune, in the State of Maharashtra. During the said period, the value of the contraband goods seized on the West Coast was Rs. 20.18 crores.

(c) Seized smuggled goods are confiscated to Government on adjudication. After the remedies of appeal and revision as provided under the Customs Act, 1962, are exhausted, those goods which are not cleared or redeemed, become ripe for disposal. Such goods are then disposed of according to prescribed instructions. In the case of perishables, however, the goods are disposed of immediately after seizure.

Purchase of processed Mica by Rupee-Trading Countries

*923. **SHRI R. L. P. VERMA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rupee trading countries have been purchasing large quantities of processed mica from India;

(b) what were exports of fabricated mica parts to these countries in the last three years;

(c) whether specific provision for export of at least 50 per cent of mica in the form of fabricated mica components has not been made in Trade Plans with these countries; and

(d) if not, why not?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) Yes, Sir.