

connected parties. As per information presently available, these operations have resulted in seizure of cash Rs. 7,100/- jewellery worth Rs. 1,42,634/- besides fixed deposit receipts and pronotes of the value of over Rs. 2,35,000/- Books of account and documents have also been seized. The contents of two bank lockers, which have been sealed, are yet to be inspected.

Investigations are in progress. Appropriate action under the law will be taken against persons found guilty of tax evasion.

Amendment of COFEPOSA to check Smuggling

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

(a) whether Government have decided to amend the COFEPOSA to make it an effective instrument for checking smuggling and economic offences and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what steps have so far been taken to take action against persons involved in economic offences under the above Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) No, Sir. The provisions of Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 are quite adequate for its purposes.

(b) The Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling activities Act, 1974 provides for preventive detention of persons with a view to preventing them from smuggling or from indulging in activities prejudicial to conservation or augmentation of foreign exchange. Persons found to be involved in such activi-

ties have been, from time to time, detained under and in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Proposal to change the Export Policy Resolution, 1970

*71. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to change the Export Policy Resolution of 1970 and introduce a new export policy in tune with its declared socio-economic objectives;

(b) whether Government have worked out any plan to encourage employment generation by increasing exports of manufactured items especially those items that have a large portion of value added due to labour costs i.e. labour intensive non-traditional items; and

(c) whether Government propose to stop export of exhaustible minerals and natural resources in the long term interest of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) and (b). A new Export Policy Resolution is under preparation. This Resolution will reflect the thinking and the export strategy of the present Government. The resolution will explain the need for evolving export strategy with a view to maximise value-addition in export and particularly to encourage exports of labour-intensive items. Creation of additional employment is one of the important objective of Government's export policy.

(c) The expansion of the mineral sector not only helps in augmenting export earning but also in accelerat-