

authorities during the last three months in the country; and

(b) the value of goods seized and the action taken by Government thereon?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) and (b) Information in this regard is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha

Gold Smuggling

227. Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shri S K Sambandhan:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state

(a) the quantity of smuggled gold seized by Government in the country during the last three months and the names of the smugglers, and

(b) the steps taken against them so far?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai). (a) During the period from 1st December, 1966 to the 28th February, 1967 the Customs and Central Excise authorities seized 740 Kgms of gold as smuggled

Information with regard to the names of the persons from whom the gold has been seized is being collected and a statement containing the information will be laid on the Table of the House

(b) Most of the cases relating to the above seizures are under investigation and adjudication. However, prosecutions have been launched in some cases

Cheating of L.I.C. Policy Holders

228 Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several policy-holders of the Life

Insurance Corporation of India are alleged to have been deprived of about Rs. 50,000 worth of policy claims by a gang of cheats in Delhi recently, and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) and (b) Two cheques for a total sum of Rs 12,123 made out by the LIC in favour of two policy-holders were taken possession of by unauthorised persons, and one of them was in fact cashed by such a person while the encashment of the other was stopped by the Bank concerned. The matter has been reported to the Police and is under police investigation. One person has been arrested in this connection by the Police. In the meantime, fresh cheques have been issued by the LIC to the policy-holders concerned.

Backward Areas in Madras

229. Shri Umanath.
Shri C K. Chakrapani
Shri P Gopalan:
Shri K. Anirudhan:
Shri V. Viswanatha Menon:
Shri K M Abraham:
Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of Madras have since sent particulars on the basis of the indicators provided by the Planning Commission to identify backward areas in Madras State,

(b) if so, whether any areas have been identified either by the State Government or Central Government;

(c) if so, the areas which have been so identified, and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay?

The Minister of Planning, Petroleum and Chemicals and of Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) to (c). A statement indicating a tentative list of backward areas furnished by the State Government in January, 1967 is placed on the Table of the House. The State Government will take a final view on the basis of the report of the Study Team.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

List of backward areas in Madras State

District	Talukas
Tiruchirapalli	Alangudi, Kolathur, Tirumayam, Udayarpalayam and Perambalur.
Tirunelveli	Nangneri, Koilpathi, Sankdran-Koil, Tiruchendur and Srivaikuntan.
Ramanathapuram	Tirupathur, Tiruvadanai, Paramakudi Ramanathapuram, Mudukulathur, Aruppukottai and Sattur.
South Arcot	Virdachalm
Mudrai	Tirumanglam

*Tentative. A final decision would be taken by the State Government after the report of the Study Team is available.

Backward Areas

230. Shri Umanath:

Shri C. K. Chakrapani:

Shri P. Gopalan:

Shri K. M. Abraham:

Shrimati Suseela Gopalan:

Shri K. Anirudhan:

Shri V. Viswanatha Menon:

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the examination of the materials sent by the various State Governments to locate the markedly backward areas in their respective States;

(b) if so, the names of the backward areas so identified in each State;

(c) the steps taken to determine the pattern of development in each of these areas; and

(d) if the reply to part (a) is in the negative, the reasons for the delay?

The Minister of Planning, Petroleum and Chemicals and of Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House indicating the district/talukas/blocks identified as most backward area by the Governments of ten States. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-168/67]. Of the remained States, the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir and Nagaland could be regarded as Hill States. In the State of Assam, all hill districts are markedly backward areas. For Punjab and Haryana States (except chronically drought affected areas on border with Rajasthan), the State Governments have not specially identified any areas as markedly backward areas. The views of the Governments of the two States of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh have not yet been received.

(c) Information is awaited from the State Governments.

(d) Does not arise.

Iddikki Hydro-Electric Project

231. Shri Vasudevan Nair:

Shri P. Viswantharan:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether any firm agreement had been signed with the Canadian firm for the construction of the iddikki Hydro-Electric Project in Kerala State; and

(b) the amount provisionally allotted for this project during the Fourth Plan?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao):

(a) The revised Loan Agreement has recently been received from the External Aid Office, Canada. This is under examination at present in consultation with the Kerala State Electricity Board and is expected to be signed shortly. The question of firm agreement with Canadian firm for procurement of