

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). The quantity of gold seized under the Customs Act during the years 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 is furnished below :

| Year | Quantity (in Kgs.) |
|---------|-----------------------|
| 1982-83 | 748 |
| 1983-84 | 331 |
| 1984-85 | 1,117 (provisional) |

(c) Due to various factors like demand and supply, profitability of a particular commodity, relative profitability between various commodities sensitive to smuggling. The trends of smuggling and consequently, the extent of seizure tend to vary from time to time. The profitability in the smuggling of gold, which had declined in 1983, rose in 1984-85.

(d) The drive against smuggling has been intensified. The preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs Department has been reinforced in vulnerable areas in terms of man-power and equipment. In addition, appropriate anti-smuggling measures, both short-term and long-term, are taken in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities. The trends in smuggling of various commodities, including gold, are also kept under constant review for appropriate action.

[English]

Unauthorised Sale of Imported Cement during 1984

4615. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :
SHRI SITARAM J. GAVALI :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :
SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a racket of unauthorised sale of imported cement worth about fifteen crores was unearthed during 1984 conspiring to cheat the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has since been conducted in the matter; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). An allegation that cement imported by STC, Sikkim against import licence issued for Rs. 14,99,70,586/- and sold in contravention of the conditions of the import licence, is still under investigation by the CBI.

Payment of Wages to Textile Workers for Holiday on Polling Day

4616. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MISHRA : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in some textile mills in States, the polling day of 24th December, 1984 was declared as holiday;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that most of the mills which declared this day as holiday with pay have not paid wages for that day;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) steps taken for the payment of wages for that day ?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Tenders Invited by B. C. C. L. for the Work 'Range of Water Supply Mains, to Karmik Bhavan'

4619. PROF. MAMHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Coking Coal Limited had invited tenders for the work 'Range of Water Supply Mains to Karmik Bhavan';

(b) the name of the company to whom the work was entrusted;

(c) whether the company has completed the work;