

Confiscated Gold

318. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATH-
RAO GUNDEWAR :

SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of gold confiscated from the flights of Air India and Indian Airlines since January, 1993 till date ;

(b) the number of persons arrested in this regard ; and

(c) the details of the action being taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) 211.225 Kgs. of gold has been confiscated from the flights of Air India and Indian Airlines for the period from 1st January 1993 to 31st October, 1993.

(b) and (c) 15 persons have been arrested in this regard. Prosecutions and COFEPOSA proceedings have been initiated against persons found involved in smuggling of gold, wherever warranted.

[English]

Clearance of Cheques

319. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI G. DEVARAYA NAIK :
SHRI TARA CHAND KHAN-
DELWAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cheque clearance is invariably delayed by a day by the staff at the Reserve Bank of India's National Clearing Cell (NCC) as reported in the "Economic Times" dated October 31, 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that the general practice is to clear the cheques immediately. However, on 2nd and 9th September 1993, clearing operations were partially affected due to a strike observed by the staff of the member banks of the New Delhi Bankers' Clearing House including Reserve Bank of India.

(c) Norms for data entry by Data Terminal Operators have been specified recently. Supervision and monitoring have also been strengthened to improve efficiency.

All out efforts are being made to bring down the amount as well as number of outstanding entries by holding weekly and monthly meetings with banks.

[Translation]

Seizure of Gold Biscuits and Currency

320. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHRY :

SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Enforcement Directorate have seized gold biscuits and foreign currency in large quantity by raiding premises of traders in Delhi during the last two months ;

(b) if so, the quantity and value thereof ;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action against these traders so far ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) The Directorate of Enforcement has seized foreign currency amounting to Rs. 27.50 lakhs and 83 gold biscuits worth Rs. 41.50 lakhs (approx.) on 3-11-93 from the premises of a trader in Delhi.

(c) and (d) The trader was arrested and subsequently detained under COFEPOSA on 16-11-93.