

Additional staff has also been provided to assist in the handling of claims.

(c) 21,001 claims were disposed of during the year 1977-78. As on 31-10-78, 29,327 claims are still pending verification. It is difficult to indicate precisely the time by which the remaining claims will be settled. However, all out efforts are being made to settle the claims as expeditiously, as possible.

Applications for *ex-gratia* compensation for properties left in Pakistan pending with Government

1973. PROF. SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether applications for *ex-gratia* compensation for properties left in Pakistan are still pending with the Government; and

(b) if so, number of claims thereabout and the cases disposed of during the last two years and the amount paid for the purpose?

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

(b) As on 31-10-1978, 29,327 are still pending verification. Cases disposed of and *ex-gratia* payment made during the financial year 1977-78 and 1978-79 (up to October, 1978 are given below:—

Year	No. of cases disposed of	<i>Ex-gratia</i> payment made	Rs. in lakhs
1977-78	21,001	234	
1978-79 (upto Oct. 78)	3,450	217	

Fall in Imports of Raw Cashewnuts

1974. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the fall in imports of raw cashewnuts and for the "dismal" export performance; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG):

(a) The fall in imports is mainly because of the increase in local cashewnut processing capacity in the producing countries e.g. Tanzania, Kenya, increase in imports of raw cashewnuts by China from the producing countries, and lower crop/collection due to adverse weather and other local factors in those countries.

The fall in exports is mainly due to decline in the availability of imported raw cashewnuts and the fall in the unit value realisation on exports. In addition exporters are facing difficulties due to certain local policies like pricing of raw cashewnuts and restriction on movement of raw cashewnuts.

(b) Steps are being taken to increase cashew production within the country and also to procure raw cashewnuts in larger quantities through imports.

Cases of gold smuggling detected

1975. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases of gold smuggling were detected and quantity of gold seized during the year 1976-77; and

(b) the break-up of figures month-wise and place-wise with comparative statement for 1975-76?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL) : (a) According to reports received by Government 473 cases involving a total quantity of about 165 kgs. of smuggled gold were detected during 1976-77.

(b) The information is furnished in the Statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2953/78].

C.B.I. investigation into seizure of Diamond at Palam in 1976

1976. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since completed the investigations into the seizure of Diamond at Palam worth Rs. 52 lakhs on 19th August, 1976;

(b) if not, whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to hand over the case to the C.B.I. for investigation and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any action has since been taken so far against the concerned guilty and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL) : (a) to (c). Investigations in the case relating to seizure on 19-8-76 of Rs. 52 lakhs worth of diamonds, have been completed in so far as the offending goods and the persons concerned with smuggling are concerned. The offending goods have been confiscated and show cause notices for imposition of penalties under section 114 of the Customs Act, 1962, have been issued to 10 persons. Prosecution proceedings have been initiated against 10 persons and one Customs officer and these cases are pending in Court. In so far as investigation regarding suspected collusion of departmental officers is concerned, the question of handing it over to C.B.I. is under consideration in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

News-item captioned 'Kerala's Gulf-Money Puzzle'

1977. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the press reports in the *Hindustan Times* dated the 16th October, 1978 wherein it has been stated that millions of rupees come into Kerala State each year from the Gulf but no one seems to know how much comes or where it goes; and

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted and if so, with what result?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The purpose for which the remittances received from abroad are being utilized, has been indicated in the news-item itself. The Government do not feel the need of conducting an inquiry in this regard.

Alleged violation of F.E.R.A. by Chairman, Shaw Wallace and Company

1978. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investigations have been completed in regard to the violation of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act by the Chairman of the Shaw Wallace and Company;

(b) if so, what are the findings of the investigations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL) : (a) to (c). Acting on certain information, the premises of M/s. Shaw Wallace and Company, Ltd., Calcutta and other connected premises were searched by