

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1345
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2000
SMUGGLING OF IVORY
MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the ivory are being smuggled on a large scale in the country;
- (b) if so, whether some people have been arrested recently in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government are considering to take concrete steps to check it; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

(SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) MINISTER OF STATE (REVENUE) IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(a), (b) & (c): According to available information, no such smuggling on a large scale from the country has come to notice. Only two cases of attempted smuggling of ivory valued about Rs.3.05 Lakhs have been detected by the officers of Customs during the years 1999 & 2000 (till date). In the case detected in February, 2000, two persons involved in attempt to smuggle ivory valued at Rs.1.55 lakhs to Myanmar were reportedly apprehended on the Ri-Bhoi District (Meghalaya) - and handed over to police who subsequently arrested them under Explosives Act as from their possession 150 kgs. of explosives were also recovered.

(d) & (e): All the field formations and intelligence units of Customs (including DRI) are alert to guard against attempts of such smuggling. Effective steps are being taken to collect intelligence & constant surveillance is being maintained at airports, sensitive land borders and other vulnerable points to detect smuggling of ivory or other prohibited items.