

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2656  
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2003  
INCREASE IN SMUGGLING OF DRUG GOLD ETC.  
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

**Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the increase in cases of smuggling and inflow of counterfeit currency in the country during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the number of cases of smuggling of drug, gold, ivory, heroin and skins of protected wild life detected during each of the last three years in the country;
- (c) the number of smugglers and Government officials arrested/booked for these crimes and the action taken against them;
- (d) whether Pakistan link has been established in most of the cases pertaining to fake currency and heroin smuggling; and
- (e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb smuggling of fake currency and narcotics?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (REVENUE) IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE & COMPANY AFFAIRS(SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

- (a): Smuggling is a clandestine activity. It cannot be said with certainty that there is increase in smuggling and inflow of counterfeit currency into the country.
- (b) & (c): The number of cases booked and smugglers arrested for smuggling of drug, ivory, heroin and skin of protected wild life during last 3 years & current year (upto January, 2003) is given below. Legal action as per the provisions of Customs Act, 1962 and NDPS Act, 1985 has been initiated against the arrested persons. However, no arrest of Government official has been made in any of the above activities.

1999-2000    2000-2001    2001-02    2002-2003 (Upto January, 2003)

|                             | No. of cases booked | No. of Smugglers arrested | No. of Cases booked | No. of Smugglers arrested | No. of cases booked | No. of Smugglers arrested | No. of Cases booked | No. of Smugglers arrested |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Drug                        | 571                 | 182                       | 490                 | 168                       | 436                 | 145                       | 454                 | 132                       |
| Gold                        | 1065                | 157                       | 585                 | 118                       | 425                 | 104                       | 164                 | 35                        |
| Ivory                       | 1                   | 2                         | NIL                 | NIL                       | 1                   | NIL                       | 1                   | NIL                       |
| Heroin                      | 37                  | 48                        | 33                  | 40                        | 34                  | 40                        | 44                  | 59                        |
| Skin of protected wild life | NIL                 | NIL                       | NIL                 | NIL                       | 2                   | 2                         | 2                   | 2                         |

- (d): In some of the cases of seizure of Heroin, it bore inscriptions/markings/labels suggesting that the contraband originated from South West Asia including Pakistan.
- (e): All Customs field formations including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are vigilant and alert to curb smuggling of fake currency and narcotics into the country.