

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2614  
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2003  
SMUGGLING IN GAYA AIRPORT  
RAGHUNATH JHA

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Lax customs so Gaya gets more smugglers than pilgrims` appearing in Hindustan Times of July 16, 2003;
- (b) if so, whether corrupt custom's officials have been letting in contraband on a weekly basis on the Indian Airlines flight from Bangkok and the smugglers mostly from Delhi, would just walk out and take domestic flights or other transport to wherever they are based;
- (c) if so, whether Gaya Custom's team has been transferred and a report has been submitted to the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC);
- (d) if so, whether the CBEC considered the report by now and taken any action in the matter; and
- (e) if so, the details of action taken in the matter?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (E.B. & I.) IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL)

- (a): Yes, Sir.
- (b): Nexus, if any, between Customs officers posted at Gaya Airport and carriers is under investigation.
- (c): Yes, Sir.
- (d) & (e): Yes, Sir. Commissioner of Customs, Patna has been asked to look into the matter and to provide adequate training to Customs officers to enable them to prevent and detect smuggling of contraband goods into the country.