

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:623  
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2003  
INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY  
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

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

- (a) whether India has celebrated International Customs Day on 26 January, 2003;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have chalked out any plan to strengthen customs authority in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) and (b) The International Customs Day is celebrated by the members of the World Customs Organisation on 26th January every year. As 26th January is Our Republic Day, the Central Board of Excise and Customs celebrated the International Customs Day this year on 24th January, 2003. Senior officers of the Government of India, the Secretary General of World Customs Organisation and the Director General of Customs of the His Majesty's Government of Nepal participated in the main function held in New Customs House, New Delhi.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The actions taken by the Government include strengthening of Customs formations in the country recently through cadre restructuring and creation of new posts at different operational levels; special thrust being given by customs to computerize procedures for improving customs control and providing a facilitated, hassle-free customs clearance regime, etc.