

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:597
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2005
SMUGGLING ON THE BORDERS
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the large scale smuggling of goods along the borders;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the value of goods smuggled and seized during each of the last three years till date;
- (c) the number of persons arrested in such cases during the said period and the details of action taken against them; and
- (d) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to stop smuggling from across the border ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM)

(a) , (b), (c) & (d) :A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.597 for answer on the 6th May, 2005.

(a) Sir, instances of smuggling of goods along the borders have come to light. However, large scale smuggling is not taking place.

(b)&(c) The details of goods smuggled and seized during the last three years and the number of persons arrested and details of action taken against them are given in the following table

(Amount in crores of Rupees)

Year	No. of case of seizure of goods smuggled/ attempted to be smuggled	Value of goods seized	No. of persons arrested	No. of persons arrested per case	No. of persons prosecuted	No. of persons convicted	Conversion
2002-03	15572	241.16	318	171	204	139	175
2003-04	18489	543.80	367	430	74	131	122
2004-05	16356	323.32	366	105	86	161	93

(d) The steps taken to stop smuggling from across the border are as follows:-

(i) Government have strengthened anti-smuggling formations by cadre restructuring of the Department of Customs and Central Excise. To supervise anti-smuggling operations along the porous Indo-Nepal Border, an office of the Chief Commissioner of Customs(Preventive) has been created at Patna and an officer has since been posted as Chief Commissioner of Customs(Preventive), Patna to coordinate and supervise the anti-smuggling operations along the border. Further a zonal unit of the

Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has been created at Lucknow and an office of the rank of Additional Director General has been posted to head the unit with exclusive mandate of collection, collation and dissemination of intelligence relating to smuggling across the Indo-Nepal border.

Government have modernised the Department of Customs by effective computerisation and computers are being used for collation and making workable intelligence.

(ii) Bilateral talks with the Government of neighbouring countries are being held regularly on anti-smuggling matters. There has been standing arrangement of Indo-Nepal Director General level talks on anti-smuggling and allied matters. Similarly there is an arrangement of Indo-Sri Lanka operational level talks and DG level talks. These talks are held annually and have been effective in enhancing the desired cooperation in anti-smuggling efforts.

(iii) Special Services Bureau (SSB) has been deployed at sensitive locations across Indo-Nepal border. Posting of this force has been a deterrent for smugglers.

(iv) Communication equipments (mobile phones) have been made available to the Directorate of Revenue officials enabling to suitably coordinate intelligence gathering and anti-smuggling operations.

(v) The Customs overseas intelligence network has been strengthened by creation of a post of First Secretary at the Consulate of India at Birganj in Nepal.

In addition the following steps are proposed to be taken:

1. Integrated check-posts are proposed to be set up at major land Customs stations across Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bangladesh border.
2. Sophisticated container scanners are proposed to be installed at Raxaul and Jogbani in Bihar and at Sonauli and Nepal Ganj Road in Uttar Pradesh along Indo-Nepal border and Petrapole, Changrabandha, Hili, Dawaki along Indo-Bangladesh border.
3. X-ray baggage inspection machines are already installed at sensitive Customs locations and more advanced X-ray baggage inspection systems are proposed to be procured and installed at all Customs points.
4. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence is proposed to be further strengthened by creation of additional regional and sub-regional units and by augmenting staff strength in various cadres.