

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1660
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2004
SHORTAGE OF STAFF IN CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT
Reddy Shri Suravaram Sudhakar

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the customs department is facing severe shortage of staff due to which they could not detect the live shells imported from abroad through containers;
- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
- (c) The remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

- (a) Yes Sir, there is shortage of staff in Customs and Central Excise department. However, there is no direct relation of this shortage with non detection of shells in import of metal scrap from abroad through containers.
- (b) There is shortage of 458 officers in group `A`, 1147 officers in group `B`, 7522 officers in group `C` and 2212 employees in group `D` posts as against sanctioned strength of 2661, 14482, 36288 and 16742 in group `A`,`B`,`C` and UD` respectively as on 01.07.2004 under Central Board of Excise and Customs.
- (c) The process of direct recruitment against 140! vacancies in various grades existing in the Customs and Central Excise field formation has been initiated as a normal exercise.

As regards import of metal scrap and detection of live shells etc. separate action on further restrictions on import and detailed examination of metal scrap have been prescribed by the Central Board of Excise & Customs.