

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**News item "Smuggling on the Rise"**

\*995. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to various anti-smuggling organisations operating in the country, it has been revealed that smuggling activities have increased considerably since the past one decade as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 28 and 29 April, 1990;

(b) if so, whether the report prepared by the Intelligence Wing in September, 1989 in collaboration with anti-smuggling organisation has since been examined; and

(c) if so, the details of the report and the further steps contemplated by Government to make anti-smuggling organisations more effective?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) It is not possible to estimate whether smuggling activities have increased during the past decade and if so to what extent. The value of seizures effected by the Customs authorities over the past few years as given in the table show an increasing trend. This need not necessarily indicate a spurt in smuggling but could be due to intensified anti-smuggling efforts.

**TABLE**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Value of seizures (Rs. in crores)</i>
1985	195.63

<i>Year</i>	<i>Value of seizures (Rs. in crores)</i>
1986	217.52
1987	251.47
1988	443.14
1989	554.59
1990 (upto April)	223.38 (Provisional)

(b) No such report has been prepared by any of the intelligence agencies under this Ministry.

(c) Does not arise.

**Writing off Loans of Farmers, Artisans and Weavers**

\*996. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated the detailed scheme of debt relief to farmers, artisans and weavers who had taken loans upto Rs.10,000 from various banks, in consultation with the RBI and the NABARD;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the scheme is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). The Government of India had announced its decision for providing debt relief for farmers, artisans and weavers who had taken loans upto Rs. 10,000/- from public sector banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks. The Government has formulated the Agri-