

1968 to January, 1969 as having been smuggled from Nepal.

(b) Intensifying the arrangements for collection of intelligence, posting of more preventive staff and provision of more vehicles to improve their mobility are the more important steps taken to prevent smuggling. The results are encouraging as will be seen from the fact that the total value of all goods seized during the last quarter of 1968 was about Rs. 9.7 lakhs as against the average seizures of Rs. 5.3 lakhs per quarter during the first three quarters of 1968.

Damage due to Flood and Cyclone in Orissa

*130. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central team visited Orissa to assess the damage due to flood and cyclone in the months of October and November, 1968;

(b) the assessment of damage and the financial requirements for relief operations;

(c) the amount made available to the State Government by the Central Government for this purpose so far;

(d) whether the State Government have utilised any amount from their plan and non-plan funds for organisation of relief works, exclusive of Central help;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the total amount which the State Government has spent for relief work so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) and (b). A Central team of officers visited Orissa in November, 1968 to assess the requirement of funds for various relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of the cyclones which hit Orissa in October-November, 1968. In the light of the team's report based on its assessment of the damage, the

Government of India have adopted a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 5.33 crores on various relief and rehabilitation measures including repairs to public property, for purposes of Central assistance.

(c) An amount of Rs. 2.50 crores has so far been advanced to the State Government for undertaking necessary relief measures.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The State Government have reported that an expenditure approximately of Rs. 2.49 crores was incurred on cyclone relief measures until the 15th February, 1969.

Import Racket in Pondicherry

*131. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have seen reports in the *Blitz* of the 21st December, 1968 that the Police have unearthed a racket in imports in Pondicherry of scarce or banned consumer items amounting to over rupees one crore;

(b) if so the number of business houses which were found to be involved in this case; and

(c) the nature of action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard and the number of persons arrested in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The investigations conducted so far by the Central Bureau of Investigation have revealed that 32 firms are involved in the cases relating to suspected irregularities/illegalsities in the matter of obtaining Customs Clearance Permits based on the 'authorisations' issued by the erstwhile French Government of