

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. †75

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY 14th DECEMBER, 2018
AGRAHAYANA 23, 1940 [SAKA]

Smuggling of Gold

†75. **SHRI BHARAT SINGH:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Customs authorities are contemplating to increase the use of videoscope for checking smuggling of gold ornaments and precious metals goods and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the extent to which smuggling of the said articles is likely to be checked by the use of videoscope along with the likely benefits thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE FINANCE MINISTER
(SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF THELOK SABHA STARRED
QUESTION NO. 75 ASKED BY SHRI BHARAT SINGH FOR ANSWER ON
DECEMBER 14, 2018**

(a) Yes Madam. 90 videoscopes were procured by CBIC in 2017, in the first phase. Further, order for another 74 videoscopes has been placed in November, 2018, in the second phase.

(b) Videoscope is an inspection tool which enables Customs officers to view inaccessible areas during examination of goods/vessels/aircraft and thereby assist in detection of concealed contraband. Detection of contraband including gold etc results in safeguarding the revenue and prevention of smuggling.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.
