

Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Revenue

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.28
TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020
BHADRAPADA 23, 1942 (SAKA)

GOLD SMUGGLING CASES

28. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:
SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:
ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government/ Enforcement Directorate/ Customs that Gold smuggling through various airports in the country including Kerala airports is increasing and has adversely affected the economic stability of the country;

(b) if so, the details of such cases of gold smuggling reported from various airports of the country including kerala airports during the last five years and the current year, year-wise along with the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the details of gold seized from various airports including kerala airports and the number of people booked during the said period along with the value/price involved therein;

(d) whether it has also come to the notice of the Government that gold smuggling is carried out through the diplomatic channel and if so, the details of involvement of diplomatic persons therein along with the action taken in this regard;

(e) whether the Government has entrusted agencies for the investigation of gold smuggling in Thiruvananthapuram air cargo through diplomatic channel and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether the investigation agencies reported to the Court that the accused in the gold smuggling are highly influential and if so, the details thereof along with the initiatives taken by the Government for fair and proper investigation?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (f): The year-wise number of cases of gold smuggling through various airports along with the quantum of gold seized, number of people booked and the value of gold seized can be seen from the following table:

Year	Number of Cases of Smuggling of Gold at various Airports	Quantum of Gold Seized (in Kg.)	Number of people booked	Value of Gold seized (Rs. In Lakhs)
2015-16	2696	2452.147	1408	60667.29
2016-17	1453	921.805	788	24375.62
2017-18	2911	1996.930	1525	53133.32
2018-19	4855	2946.097	2141	83354.89
2019-20	4444	2629.549	2339	85795.50
2020-21*	196	103.165	200	4955.566

* upto August, 2020

During July 2020, the Office of the Commissioner of Customs (Preventive), Cochin, informed the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of the suspicion of gold consignment in a Diplomatic bag. Following due procedure, MEA provided clearance to Customs authorities to intercept the consignment containing gold which was addressed to a diplomat of Consulate General of UAE in Thiruvananthapuram. Customs authorities and NIA have launched the investigation and the department of Custom has seized 30,244.900 gram of Gold and booked case under Customs Law and arrested 16 persons. Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has also initiated Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) investigations in two Gold Smuggling cases related to Kerala. ED has also taken up investigation in five cases under the provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 all over India.

It was reported to the court that one of the prime accused was influential; however Government is taking effective steps for fair and proper investigation. Disclosure of further details of cases may not be in a larger public interest as the same may impact the cases.
