

Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Revenue

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1120
TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 08, 2021
MAGHA 19, 1942(SAKA)
CASES OF GOLD SMUGGLING

1120. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN;
ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Customs/ED are investigating cases in connection with gold smuggling through diplomatic baggage in Kerala and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number and details of persons arrested and number of persons questioned in connection with gold smuggling cases so far;
- (c) whether the Customs/ED have submitted chargesheet in connection with these cases and if so, the details of cases registered in connection with this offence;
- (d) whether the Customs/ED have arrested any Government officials in connection with the cases registered in Kerala and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Customs/ED have questioned any Government officials in connection with these cases and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Customs/ED have found out illegality and corruption and money laundering in the official transaction of Kerala Government during the investigation of these cases and if so, the details thereof?

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

- a) Based on an intelligence that gold was being smuggled in the guise of diplomatic cargo at air cargo complex, Thiruvananthapuram, the diplomatic cargo arrived was opened and examined. The examination resulted in the seizure of 30,244.900 gram of gold, valued at Rs. 14.82 Crore. The case is being investigated by ED and Customs.
- b) 22 persons were arrested and 70 persons have been questioned.
- c) Prosecution complaint has been filed before the Hon'ble Special PMLA Court, Ernakulam. The investigation by custom is not complete and no prosecution has been initiated.
- d) Former Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister of Kerala was arrested and a supplementary prosecution complaint was filed against him before the Hon'ble special PMLA Court, Ernakulam.
- e) 6 Government officials were questioned by ED and 13 by Customs.
- f) During the course of investigation, it was recorded that the accused received kickbacks for award of a government project in Kerala.
