

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 229
ANSWERED ON MONDAY, July 22, 2024/31 Ashadha, 1946 (Saka)**

Gold Smuggling at Goa Airports and its Detrimental effect on the Economy

229. Shri Captain Viriato Fernandes:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the action taken by the Government regarding gold smuggling at both airports in the state of Goa;
- (b) whether action has been initiated by the DRI against complaint received regarding involvement of staff of Goa Cabinet Minister in gold smuggling, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether custom department had arrested three individuals employed for gold smuggling at Dabolim airport, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the persons arrested by the custom department revealed that the operations had links with dreaded anti-national elements operating from a foreign country and the customs raise the matter with the Government so as to find the larger racket and nexus with people in public life involved in the smuggling activity; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof;

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)**

- (a) The Customs field formations and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) keep a constant vigil and take operational measures, inter alia, based on intelligence, passenger profiling with the aid of Advance Passenger Information System (APIS); risk-based interdiction and targeting; non-intrusive inspection; rummaging of carriers, including aircrafts; and coordinate with other agencies for purposes of thwarting gold smuggling, including with respect to airports in the state of Goa. Field formations are regularly sensitized to newer methods of smuggling. On detection of gold smuggling cases, action is taken in accordance with law, including seizure and confiscation of smuggled gold. Between April 2023 and June 2024, nine cases of seizure involving 13.08 kgs of smuggled gold and twenty-four cases of seizure involving 22.33 kgs of smuggled gold, have been detected at Manohar International Airport and Dabolim International Airport, respectively.
- (b) The contents of a complaint dated 03.10.2023 received in this regard were taken into consideration while developing intelligence on gold smuggling. Moreover, DRI increased the vigil at both airports in Goa.
- (c) In a case booked on 19.01.2024 at Dabolim airport involving seizure of 5293 grams of smuggled gold paste, three individuals were arrested two of whom were found to be working at the airport.
- (d) & (e) Investigation in the case mentioned at (c) above have not revealed link with anti-national elements operating from a foreign country.
