

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 779

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY 24th JULY, 2015
SHRAVANA 2, 1937 [SAKA]

Smuggling of Cigarettes and Foreign Currency

779. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR:
SHRI CHARANJEET SINGH RORI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a spurt in the smuggling of goods, particularly foreign brand cigarettes and foreign currency;
- (a) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise *via* airports, seaports, roads along with the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether punitive action has been initiated by the Government against offenders, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the other steps being taken by the Government to prevent/check smuggling in the country including metro cities?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
[SHRI JAYANT SINHA]

- (a) Yes. Going by the seizures made by Customs field formations as indicated below, there seems to be a spurt in the smuggling of foreign brand cigarettes and foreign currency:

Year	Quantity of Cigarettes of foreign brands seized (In Thousands)	Value of Foreign Currency Seized (Equivalent Value in Rs. Lakh)
2012-13	51768.88	453.46
2013-14	26435.92	1382.94
2014-15	114330	2889.288
2015-16 to date	55890.06	718.89
Total	248424.86	5444.578

(b) and (c) The details of cases booked in respect of smuggling of foreign brand cigarettes and foreign currency (year-wise, State/UT-wise via airports, seaports and roads) for the last three years and the current year and the punitive action initiated by the Department as per the Customs Act, 1962 are at **Annexure-A**.

(d) All the Customs field formations including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) have been alerted and sensitized to remain more vigilant to prevent smuggling of goods including foreign brand cigarettes and foreign currency. Alerts and modus operandi circulars are issued by DRI to field formations. Strict surveillance is maintained and special watch is kept at sensitive places. Inter-agency coordination with other agencies is also being maintained for greater exchange of intelligence inputs to keep a check on smuggling activities.

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 779 For answer on 24.7.2015
SMUGGLING OF CIGARETTES AND FOREIGN CURRENCY.

State/Union Territory	Year	Quantity of Foreign Cigarettes seized (in Thousands)	Value of Foreign Currency Seized (Equivalent Value in Rs. Lakh)	Details of the Punitive Action taken by the Department
Karnataka	2012-13	321.8	0	Action has been initiated under Customs Act, 1962. Show Cause Notices have been issued and goods have been confiscated. Cases adjudicated and penalty imposed. Arrests have been made under Customs Act, 1962, wherever warranted. Preventive detention under COFEPOSA has also been proposed wherever warranted.
	2013-14	832.92	99.08	
	2014-15	870.8	85.46	
	2015-16 to date	3238.28	154.66	
Goa	2012-13	1098.4	0	
	2013-14	19.2	0	
	2014-15	55.2	7.476	
	2015-16 to date	939.46	0	
Kerala	2012-13	1087.99	13.67	
	2013-14	422.32	2.77	
	2014-15	405.62	166.48	
	2015-16 to date	82.4	2.59	
Maharashtra	2012-13	21118.16	151.23	
	2013-14	1962.4	68.93	
	2014-15	22417.08	463.12	
	2015-16 to date	9262.72	250.54	
Tamil Nadu	2012-13	5180.755	73.89	
	2013-14	4852.4	224	
	2014-15	239.051	423.5	
	2015-16 to date	1754.648	138.62	
Rajasthan	2012-13	0	16.02	
	2013-14	71.16	0	
	2014-15	95.2	0	
	2015-16 to date	29.2	0	
Punjab	2012-13	1194	0	
	2013-14	2251	0	
	2014-15	455	212	
	2015-16 to date	979.6	0	
Delhi	2012-13	14917.2	35.2	
	2013-14	4000	752.38	
	2014-15	17993.4	400.75	
	2015-16 to date	18618.8	7.26	
Telangana (Erstwhile Andhra Pradesh)	2012-13	33	96	
	2013-14	146	0	
	2014-15	23355.2	98	
	2015-16 to date	1012	0	

West Bengal	2012-13	679.4	40.11	Action has been initiated under Customs Act, 1962. Show Cause Notices have been issued and goods have been confiscated. Cases adjudicated and penalty imposed.	
	2013-14	7404.319	143.94		
	2014-15	25726.255	801.29		
	2015-16 to date	10256.8	161.02		
Tripura	2012-13	0	20		
	2013-14	0	10.33		
	2014-15	0	14.32		
	2015-16 to date	0	2.19		
Manipur	2012-13	171.4	3.03		Arrests have been made under Customs Act, 1962, wherever warranted. Preventive detention under COFEPOSA has also been proposed wherever warranted.
	2013-14	463.8	1.03		
	2014-15	830	0		
	2015-16 to date	800	0		
Assam	2012-13	1019.94	1.38		
	2013-14	2212.6	9.83		
	2014-15	739.6	0.0019		
	2015-16 to date	841.06	0.76		
Nagaland	2012-13	210	0		
	2013-14	160	0		
	2014-15	1286.2	0		
	2015-16 to date	68.6	0		
Meghalaya	2012-13	102	0		
	2013-14	714	0		
	2014-15	0	0		
	2015-16 to date	0	0		
Andhra Pradesh	2012-13	32.36	0		
	2013-14	0	1.3		
	2014-15	0	0		
	2015-16 to date	704.64	0		
Gujarat	2012-13	4443.8	0		
	2013-14	13.68	11.38		
	2014-15	0	212		
	2015-16 to date	2002.56	0		
Bihar	2012-13	23.02	0.67		
	2013-14	219.64	2.5		
	2014-15	141.92	4.07		
	2015-16 to date	243.89	1.25		
Uttar Pradesh	2012-13	112.84	1.99		
	2013-14	455.23	55.47		
	2014-15	181.7	0.78		
	2015-16 to date	158	0		
Uttarakhand	2012-13	22.8	0		
	2013-14	235.25	0		
	2014-15	243.89	0		
	2015-16 to date	29.908	0		
