

| <i>High Court</i>                  | <i>Murder Cases<br/>(Reference)<br/>3 Years old</i> | <i>Criminal Cases<br/>3 years old</i> |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| <i>1</i>                           | <i>2</i>  | <i>3</i>                              |
| Delhi<br>(As on 30.6.90)           | Nil   | 2665                                  |
| Punjab & Haryana<br>(As on 1.9.90) | Nil   | 3610                                  |

(b) Besides increasing the Judge strength from time to time, various steps such as grouping of cases involving common question of law, constitution of special benches, etc. have been taken from time to time. The various recommendations of the Arrears Committee (Malimath Committee) relating to hearing of criminal appeals as also Revision Application by a Single Judge other than the criminal appeals involving a sentence of death or life imprisonment (which should be heard by a Division Bench paper books not being prepared in such single judge criminal appeals setting up of proper machinery to carefully and objectively scrutinise proposals for preferring appeals against orders/judgements of acquittal to prevent frivolous appeals being filed by State Governments against such decisions, constitution of specialised benches in different branches of law etc. have been forwarded to all the State Governments/High Courts for necessary follow up action.

#### **Gold Samples Collected in Punjab**

409. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of samples collected by the Customs & Central Excise Department in Punjab under the Gold Control Act since 1987; and

(b) the action taken in such cases till date?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No samples were collected by the Customs and Central Excise Department in Punjab since 1987 under the Gold (Control) Act, 1968.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Legal aid to the poor**

410. SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the numbers of States, state-wise, where legal aid is provided to the poor free of cost; and

(b) the names of States and Union Territories where this facility is not provided and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY): (a) and (b). Legal aid is being provided free of cost in all States and Union Territories except the Union Ter-

ritories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep, where it is provided on request.

### **Import of Gold**

411. SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to in the import of primary gold;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the estimated savings in foreign exchange due to this ban?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, to implement the Gold Jewellery Export Promotion and Replenishment Scheme operated by State Bank of India, import of gold has been substituted by sale of confiscated gold through State Bank of India to jewellery exporters.

(c) The savings on account of sale of confiscated gold through SBI for operating the Gold Jewellery Export Promotion and Replenishment Scheme are estimated to be of the order of Rs. 80 crores during the current financial year.

### **Closure of Establishment by Tea Companies in Assam**

412. SHRI RAJAMOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some tea companies in Assam have closed down their establishments; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAM DAS PATEL): (a) and (b). According to the information available with the Tea Board, the tea estates/companies in Assam, which are lying closed are Sogra, Topia, Topea, Noanuddy and Kashikata. The tea estates lying closed in Cachar district of Assam Appin, Alambagh, Kuchila, Eraligoo, Benodini, Usharani, Salchara and Khoreel.

### **Production of Steel By SAIL**

413. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHA RAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the target set by the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) for the Seventh Five Year Plan for steel production and the actual production in this period;

(b) whether the SAIL has been falling behind the target of annual steel production;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken to increase the production of steel by SAIL; and

(e) the target set for the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BASAVARAJ PATIL): (a) While the target set by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) for the Seventh Five Year Plan period for crude steel production was 42.638 million tonnes, the actual production was 38.033 million tonnes.

(b) and (c). The main reasons for SAIL falling short in steel production include the supply of inconsistent the poor quality of coking coal and some other raw materials,