

interest is payable; if so, to what extent. Secondly, according to the latest statistics available to me, relating to 1966, Russia has overdrawn Rs. 7 crores on the balance of payment. They imported more from us than they exported to us. How is this Rs. 7 crores being met?

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI :** There is no interest to be paid unless we have drawn the loan. The moment a promise is made interest does not begin to accrue, the hon. Member ought to know that.

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU :** Interest begins when the loan is sanctioned.

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI :** It cannot be. It would be a very strange kind of agreement. I cannot say exactly what was the trade balance in 1966. Off-hand I cannot say and I would not like, without going into it, to make any commitment here.

**SHRI HEM BARUA :** In view of the fact that expenditure on imported goods from Soviet Russia and other countries has gone up because of the closure of the Suez Canal, may I know if Government has re-examined—and the surcharge is payable from our exchequer—our requirements for the balance of our requirements of imported goods, particularly from Soviet Russia, and may I know whether our programme has not been upset because of that?

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI :** We are constantly examining what the effect of the closure of the Suez Canal is and what is profitable for us, from where we should get and all that. Accordingly we go on making our arrangements. But all this arrangement has a limited use because we cannot buy from wherever we want. We cannot choose at our will. It all depends upon what is available to us in several places. Therefore, that is not completely free as anybody would want it to be. I do not think that our plans have been upset at present.

#### LOANS TO GOLDSMITHS

\*666. **SHRI R. BARUA :**

**SHRI D. R. PARMAR :**

**SHRI P. N. SOLANKI :**

**SHRI N. SREEKANTAN  
NAIR :**

**SHRI KIKAR SINGH :**

**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH**

**MAHIDA :**

**SHRI K. RAJARAM :**

**SHRI R. K. AMIN :**

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :**

**SHRI MOHAN SWARUP :**

**SHRI RAMACHANDRA J.  
AMIN :**

**SHRI O. P. TYAGI :**

**SHRI UMANATH :**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received from the Goldsmiths as well as from their Unions and Federations any demands and suggestions for giving more facilities to them and to convert the loans into grants given to them either by the Central Government or by the State Governments in the light of their economic condition; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (**SHRI K. C. PANT**) : (a) Representations have been received from time to time from individual goldsmiths as also from their Associations on various matters, including the request for conversion of the rehabilitation loans granted to goldsmiths, into subsidies or grants-in-aid.

(b) The representations received were examined on merits and wherever it was possible to accept any demand or suggestion, necessary action was taken. It has, however, not been possible to accept the request for conversions of rehabilitations loans granted to goldsmiths into outright subsidies or to waive their recovery.

**SHRI R. BARUA :** May I know whether the Government have statistics of the goldsmiths who have taken to alternative gainful employment and, if so, what is the proportion ?

**SHRI K. C. PANT :** 15,265 goldsmiths have received alternative employment through employment exchanges.

**SHRI R. BARUA :** What is the policy of the Government now in regard to those goldsmiths who really deserve sympathetic consideration at the present stage ?

**SHRI K. C. PANT :** Everybody who deserves sympathetic consideration will get it.

**SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR :** May I know how many goldsmiths are now in a deplorable condition because of absence of work and they are thinking of committing suicide ?

**SHRI K. C. PANT :** As far as we know, none.

**SHRI RAJARAM :** Since so many goldsmiths have committed suicide may I know whether the Finance Minister is thinking of giving some form of assistance to the families of those goldsmiths who have committed suicide ?

**THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) :** In all lands people commit suicide, not only in this country, in various sections. . . . (Interruptions)

**SHRI G. VISWANATHAM :** But here people have committed suicide because of the Gold Control Order.

**SHRI HEM BARUA :** May I submit that the Finance Minister must be able to distinguish between suicide committed on personal grounds and suicides committed because of Government action ?

**श्री ओ० प्र० त्यागी :** गोल्ड कन्ट्रोल ऐक्ट का प्रभाव स्वर्णकारों पर पड़ा, स्वर्ण के व्यापारियों पर नहीं पड़ा और गरीब कार्यकर्ता  
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जो थे अधिकार में उनकी अवस्था बहुत बुरी हो गई। उनकी अवस्था को ध्यान में रखते हुए क्या सरकार भविष्य में गोल्ड कन्ट्रोल बिल फिर लाने का विचार तो नहीं कर रही है ?

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI :** A Bill is going to come. I wish we could make it stronger.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that the loans that were to be issued to the various goldsmiths who were uprooted by this measure of the Government, in some cases are channelled through the Director of Industries and in some other cases through some other agency ? It has actually been found that loans from that money have been given to some people who are not goldsmiths and thereby the goldsmiths have been deprived of any loan for their rehabilitation. May I know whether this matter will be taken up with the various State Governments and the representatives of the All India Swarankar Sangh ?

**SHRI K. C. PANT :** A sum of Rs. 13.6 crores has so far been advanced to the various State Governments and Union Territories for the purpose of disbursal of loan. Out of this a sum of Rs. 10.34 crores has actually been disbursed to about 1,09,000 goldsmiths. If my hon. friend has any information, I hope he will pass it on to us for taking necessary action.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** There was a genuine complaint by the All India Swarankar Sangh that in certain cases that loan has been distributed to people who are not goldsmiths at all.

**MR. SPEAKER :** The Minister has answered it.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Let him make enquiries and find out the position and then have discussions with goldsmiths. I am not a goldsmith.

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI :** If any Swarankar Sangh has complained to my

hon. friend about it, let him pass it on to us for action.

**SHRI VIKRAM CHAND MAHAJAN :** How many goldsmiths have already committed suicide after the Gold Control Order came into force? Secondly, has the Government any proposal to give some aid or assistance to the widows or children of the goldsmiths who has committed suicide?

**MR. SPEAKER :** Repetition of the same question.

**SHRI K. C. PANT :** 181,000 goldsmiths or their dependants have received educational assistance and technical training facilities.

**श्री रणधीर सिंह :** उजड़े हुए सुनारों का रिसेटलमेन्ट और रिहैबिलिटेशन न करना गवर्नमेन्ट का इखलाकी फर्ज है। जिम तरह से गवर्नमेन्ट ने ईस्ट पाकिस्तान और वेस्ट पंजाब आदि से आए हुए रिफ्यूजीज का रिसेटलमेन्ट और रिहैबिलिटेशन किया है उसी तरह से किसी जामे स्कीम के तहत जो आदमी गोल्ड कन्ट्रोल एक्ट से एफेक्ट हुए हैं, उनका भी रिहैबिलिटेशन और रिसेटलमेन्ट किया जाएगा ?

**श्री मोरारजी देसाई :** इस विधान को मैं कबूल नहीं कर सकता हूँ।

**SHRI K. NARAYANA RAO :** In my very village I have seen the miserable plight of some of the families of goldsmiths after the Gold Control Order. The loans that have been given to them as also the little opportunities that have been provided to them for employment, have been found to be very inadequate. Loans they have eaten away and it is very difficult for them to switch on from one avocation to another. In the light of the total failure on the part of Government in regard to rehabilitation measures hitherto conceived, may I know whether Government are thinking in terms of finding out new policies and strategies for the amelioration of these people who have been pitchforked?

**SHRI K. C. PANT :** I have already given the facts and figures with regard to the assistance given to goldsmiths. I do not think our efforts to rehabilitate them have been a failure. Whatever other measures are contemplated will come before the House when the Gold Control Bill is discussed.

**SHRI HEM BARUA :** May I know if Government is aware of the fact that the loans given by the Central Government to the State Governments for distribution to actual goldsmiths have been distributed to non-goldsmiths, particularly in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI :** I have no information about this.

#### BARAUNI AND GUJARAT REFINERIES

\*667. **SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 31st March, 1966, the actual processing cost per metric ton worked out to 199.32 per cent and 175.52 per cent at Barauni and Gujarat Refineries, respectively, as per Project Report;

(b) if so, the causes for such high cost of production;

(c) whether there is any likelihood of the processing cost coming down in the future and what was the processing cost in June, 1967; and

(d) why there has been so much difference in the Project Report and actual performance, if processing cost cannot be reduced appreciably?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The high cost of production is due to the high capital cost; this again is the result of the inland location, provision of facilities and amenities not found in other refineries (e.g. large hou-