

(b) how far the scheme has helped us to solve our foreign exchange problem; and

(c) further steps taken by Government to bring out hidden gold in the country?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) and (b). 20.37 lakh grammes of the value approximately of Rs. 109 lakhs, according to the reports received upto 18th January, 1963.

(c) Attention is invited to the Gold Control Rules announced on 9th January, 1963.

स्वर्ण नियंत्रण नियम

+
 { श्री बाराज सिंह :
 *८७४. { श्री प्र० चं० बहगुना :
 { श्री स० श्री० बनर्जी :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारत प्रतिरक्षा नियमों के अधीन स्वर्ण नियंत्रण नियमों का कब से लागू किया गया है ;

(ख) इस आदेश के अधीन सोने के स्टाकों की जांच में अब तक कितनी प्रगति हुई है और उस का क्या परिणाम निकला है ;

(ग) क्या स्वर्ण नियंत्रण बोर्ड की स्थापना हो गई है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो बोर्ड के अधिकारियों तथा सदस्यों के नाम क्या हैं ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उपमंत्रि (श्री ब० रा० भगत) : (क) १० जनवरी, १९६३ ।

(ख) सोना साफ करने वाले और सोने का व्यापार करने वाले जिन व्यक्तियों को स्वर्ण नियंत्रण नियमों (गोल्ड कंट्रोल रूलस) के अनुसार लाइसेंस लेना आवश्यक है उन के लिये सूचना देने का जो समय निर्धारित किया गया था वह १७ जनवरी, १९६३ को ही समाप्त हुआ है । इन लोगों ने सोने के जिन स्टाकों के बारे में सूचना दी है उन में से कुछ की जांच केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क विभाग (सेन्ट्रल एक्साइज डिपार्टमेंट) के अधिकारियों ने कर ली है और कुछ की जांच वे अभी कर रहे हैं । अन्य सूचनाएँ देने का समय अभी बाकी है, इसलिये इन के सम्बन्ध में जांच करने का सवाल पैदा नहीं होता ।

(ग) जी, हां ।

(घ) उस अधिसूचना (नोटिफिकेशन) की एक प्रति, जिस के अनुसार बोर्ड का गठन किया गया, सभा की मेज पर रख दी गयी है ।

[पुस्तकालय में रखा गया । देखिए संख्या LT-762/63]

(a) 10th January, 1963.

(b) The time limit for declarations by persons in charge of refineries and dealers required to be licensed under the rules expired only on the 17th January, 1963. Stocks of gold declared by these persons have been and are being checked by the officers of the Central Excise Department. The time limit for other declarations has not yet expired, and the question of checking these declarations does not, therefore, arise.

(c) Yes.

(d) A copy of the notification constituting the Board is placed on the Table of the House.]

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how far the curb imposed on gold ornaments has been successful in this country and what measures have been taken in order to make this successful?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Sir, the control order has only recently been enforced. As the House is aware, nobody will be permitted to make ornaments above 14 carats and that is being rigorously enforced. But there will be some lapse of time before we can analyse the success of this scheme.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Is Government aware of the fact that since there is disparity in prices of gold prevailing in India and Pakistan a lot of gold is being smuggled; if so, may I know what measures Government proposes to take so that gold is not smuggled into Pakistan?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It is not correct to say that a lot of gold is being smuggled out of India into Pakistan. It may be that, because of the efficiency of the measures taken to check smuggling by controlling the refineries and other things, some gold which has been smuggled into the country, for want of being disposed of due to these measures, may have been smuggled out. But that would not be a large amount.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Is Government aware that gold ornaments are being sold in the market today at exorbitant prices and, at the same time, the gold control rules have rendered a million or more goldsmiths in this country completely without any work or employment; if so, may I know whether the Government has made any arrangements to provide them with alternative avenues of work?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): Sir, I am making a

statement at the end of the Question Hour on this matter. That will explain the whole position. But I may say here at this stage that if gold ornaments are sold—and there is room for a month to sell, but the month will soon expire—and if people go and buy them, there is bound to be a rise in prices of gold ornaments temporarily. We, therefore, tell the people that they should not do so. We are also checking it. Those who are going to do profiteering on this will have to pay heavy income-tax. So, all this is being looked into. The question of gold ornament-makers going out of employment, I am afraid, is very much exaggerated, because this happened even before I had issued the Gold Control rules. Even at that time I was receiving letters from all those people, saying that they are out of employment and I do not know why. They say that because I ask people not to buy ornaments, therefore, they are out of employment.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: No, no.

Shri Morarji Desai: What is the use of saying "No" when the hon. Member is not aware of the correct position?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: We have also got copies of those representations.

Shri Morarji Desai: Not all the copies. I have met deputations.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: We have also met deputations.

Shri Morarji Desai: I am not going to enter into a competition with the knowledge of my hon. friend. I am prepared to agree that it is greater than mine. I am only saying what I know. I was saying that there is no question of their going out of employment when such a change is made. It is almost a revolutionary change and when it is made there is bound to be some dislocation for some time. But it is not going to last long, be-

cause the making or selling of jewellery is not prohibited. Gold is not the only metal with which jewellery is made. Then, again, we are allowing ornaments to be made with 14 carat gold.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Which is an impossibility.

Shri Morarji Desai: It is said that it is not possible to make jewellery with 14 carat gold by ordinary hand and it requires machinery. My officers have seen that there is a goldsmith in Delhi who is making jewellery with 9 carat gold by hand. Therefore, it is all wrong to think or say that it cannot be done. We are trying to look into this and help those people to carry on their trade. Therefore, I do not think this is going to be a problem.

श्री श्रीराम लाल बरवा : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि नये खलस लागू होने के बाद सोने के उत्सुक व्यापार में कुछ कमी होने के संकेत मिले हैं। और क्या यह सच है कि पड़ने गुप्त सोना देश में आता था और अब बाहर जाने लगा है ?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I think this question has been answered.

Mr. Speaker: Shrimati Savitri Nigam. Lady Members must have preference on the question of gold ornaments.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know if the hon. Minister is aware...

Shri Berwa rose—

Mr. Speaker: When I have called another Member, what is the point in standing up?

श्री श्रीरामलाल बरवा : मेरे सवाल का जवाब तो मिलना चाहिये।

प्रध्यक्ष महोदय : जवाब तो मिल चुका है, आप ने ध्यान नहीं दिया।

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know if the hon. Minister is aware

that in Delhi itself 10,000 goldsmiths have made a representation that they may be given some alternative occupation like making precision instruments in some organised factories?

Mr. Speaker: The Finance Minister says that no unemployment has been caused by these orders.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: That is wholly wrong.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Member want me to say that the answer of the hon. Minister is wrong? It is only information that is to be sought during question hour, and the Finance Minister has given the information. If the hon. Members are not satisfied and they want some discussion, that is a separate matter.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: If he gives some information which may not be correct, we are duty-bound to help the Government in getting proper information.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Member has some special information on that subject, I would request him to pass it on to the Finance Minister so that he might consider it.

Shri R. S. Pandey: A report appeared in the press some time ago that our country has hoarded gold worth Rs. 4,500 crores. I want to know if this is true. How has the Ministry arrived at this figure?

Mr. Speaker: That has nothing to do with this question.

Shri Sonavane: May I know whether several goldsmiths in the country have represented that 14 carat gold ornaments are impossible to be made? If so, what steps have been taken to allay the fears of those goldsmiths?

Shri Morarji Desai: I have already said...

Mr. Speaker: That answer has been given. Hon. Members are not attentive and then they stand up and ask some question an answer to which has been given. That is the pity.

Shri Sonavane: Some goldsmiths...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He must resume his seat now.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: In view of the fact that the total value of the gold resources which have been raised as a result of the Gold Bonds scheme according to the hon. Minister were about 2 million grammes, whereas the voluntary donations of gold made by the public so far come to over 1 million grammes, what steps is the Government taking to stimulate the response of the relatively fewer number of wealthy people to the Gold Bonds scheme? Why is their response so poor?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: As a result of the measures recently taken, that is, the Gold Control Order, the contribution to the Gold Bonds scheme has been stimulated. The last week's or the last ten days' figure shows that there has been an upward trend.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: What is the figure?

श्री म० ला० त्रिवेदी : क्या सरकार को यह पता है कि गोल्ड बन्ड्स के अन्तर्गत कुछ ऐसे लोग रह गये हैं जिन के लिये लाइसेन्स लेना जरूरी नहीं है अर्थात् सुनार और कुछ दूसरे लोग जो इसी तरह से रोजगार करते चले जा रहे हैं। जैसे पहले करते थे, और जो नहीं करना चाहिए। यदि यह सत्य है तो क्या गोल्ड बन्ड्स में कोई पाबन्दी उन पर लगाई जा रही है? इन बन्ड्स के अन्तर्गत ऐसे लोग आते हैं जो कि एकसाइज चुकाते हैं या दूकान रखते हैं। लेकिन गोल्ड सिन्ड्रेट्स लोग रह जाते हैं। उन के लिये लाइसेन्स लेना जरूरी है, लेकिन बन्ड्स में यह लैकुना रह गया है।

श्री मोरारजी देसाई : यह लैकुना नहीं है। जो लोग सोना खरीदते और बेचते नहीं हैं उन के लिये लाइसेन्स लेना जरूरी नहीं है। लेकिन जो लोग सोना खरीद कर आर्नामिन्ट्स बना कर बेचते हैं उन के लिये लाइसेन्स लेना

जरूरी है। अगर वह ऐसा नहीं करेगा तो सजा के पात्र होंगे।

Shri A. K. Gopalan: Will the hon. Minister make an inquiry, if the telegrams and letters that we have received from different parts of India are forwarded to him, and see whether the information, namely, that there is acute unemployment and that lakhs of people are unemployed (**Shri U. M. Trivedi:** 27 lakhs) is correct or not?

Shri Morarji Desai: Here it is said that 27 lakhs are unemployed; in Madras when I went there, they said that 1½ crores were unemployed. These are all figures which can easily be given. As I said, when such a change is sought to be made, there is bound to be some dislocation; but the dislocation will only be temporary and is not going to be permanent.

Mr. Speaker: Next question. **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath.**

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: May I know if it is not the duty.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; I called him to put the next question.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: But you did not say 'Next question'.

Mr. Speaker: I did say that. So far as this subject is concerned, the hon. Finance Minister is making a statement.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: But what happened to Question No. 457? That has been left out.

Mr. Speaker: **Shri S. C. Samanta .. Absent. Dr. P. N. Khan. .. Absent.** Both of them are absent. Next question, **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath.**

Foreign Exchange Reserves

*458. **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foreign exchange consumed since the 8th June 1962;