

[Translation]

Diamonds, Gems and Jewellery

*247. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of diamonds, gems and jewellery exported/imported and the foreign exchange earned/spent during each of the last three years including the current year (upto November, 1994), separately;

(b) the present policy of the Government for development of the industry,

(c) whether the Government provide any incentives or compensation to the exporters of these items;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to organise the industry on scientific lines and boost export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e): Exports and Imports of gems and jewellery and foreign exchanged earned/spent during the last three years and the current year upto November '94 are given below:—

EXPORTS

(Value in Rs. crores)

Items	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	Apr-Nov '94
Diamonds	6039.61 (87)	7785.24 (110)	11206.49 (140)	7754.26 (100)
Gold Jewellery	657.27	764.61	962.75	958.33
Others	53.17	346.74	356.84	276.20
TOTAL	6750.05	8896.49	12526.08	8988.79

Source: DGCI&S. For last 3 years
GJEPC. For Apr-Nov '94

IMPORTS

(Value in Rs. crores)

Items	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	Apr-Nov '94
Rough	4677.54	6329.68	8033.61	5217.49
Diamonds	(546)	(723)	(690)	(415)
Gold Bars	573.84	471.71	552.93	365.18
Others	143.38	174.86	170.52	150.50
TOTAL	5394.76	6976.25	8757.06	5733.17

Source: GJEPC

(Figures within Bracket indicate the quantity of diamonds in lakhs carats. In the case of import/export of items other than diamonds, only the value has been given because quantities are not aggregated due to a wide variety of items).

Gem and jewellery is a thrust sector of our exports. The Government have taken many steps for encouraging the development of the industry and boost the exports from this sector. These include a constant monitoring of the Export-Import Policy with the objective of fine tuning of the

policies, ensuring easy availability of raw-materials at internationally competitive prices and encouraging exporters to participate in international exhibitions through the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council. In order to facilitate technological upgradation of the industry, custom duties on a wide range of machinery, equipment and tools required by the order industry have been reduced.

Cooperative Banks

*248. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Government to strengthen the capital base of co-operative banks on the lines of commercial and rural banks;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is proposed to condier such a scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d): Unlike public sector commercial banks, and Regional Rural Banks where the Central Government directly contributes to the share capital, shareholding of State Cooperative Banks and District Cooperative Banks is contributed by their members and the State Government. To some extent, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) assists State Governments towards contributions to the share capital of District and State level Cooperative Banks.

NABARD is working out State specific plans for improving the functioning of the cooperative system, and based on such plans proposes to enter into a Memoranda of Understanding with the State Governments, as well as the State and District level cooperative banks for implementing State specific development action plans which inter-alia would have a provision for assistance towards share capital contribution of cooperative banks.

[English]

Anti-Tobacco Legislation

*249. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from the tobacco growers of many States against the proposed anti-tobacco legislation;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have also received any request from the Tobacco Board for setting up an expert committee to study the impact of the proposed legislation on the growers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which this committee is likely to be set up; and