

Reports indicate a decline in the quantum of gold attempted to be smuggled through international airports.

Anti-smuggling activities remain intensified at all international airports. Close watch is kept on suspect persons and sensitive areas. Close coordination among all agencies involved in the detection and prevention of smuggling is being maintained.

#### Shortage of Bank and Currency Note Paper

329. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

SHRI S.S.R. RAJENDRA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is acute shortage of bank and currency note paper in the different currency note presses resulting in the shortage of small denomination Notes in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons and factors responsible for the shortage; and

(c) the efforts being made to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARAMURTHY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) : Does not arise.

#### Closure of Textile Mills

330. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of textile mills in the private sector have been closed down rendering over two lakh employees jobless;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Joint Action Committee comprising major trade unions in textiles industry has demanded the Government to convene a tripartite meeting to study the problem of closure of textile mills in private sector; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). No mill is closed under I.D. Act. 31 Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills were reported to be closed under Official Liquidation and 114 Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills were temporarily closed mainly due to financial problems, strikes and lock-out etc. 190766 works were affected due to closure of 145 mills.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Restructuring of R.R.Bs.

331. SHRI RABI RAY :

DR. K.D. JESWANI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NABARD has decided to give representation to the States in the Committee constituted for restructuring of Regional Rural Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a Standing Committee has also been constituted to examine the issues covering managerial and restructuring of R.R.Bs on a continual basis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Committee has been broad based by including representatives from four State Governments.

(c) and (d). In order to examine the major policy issues concerning the managerial and financial restructuring of RRBs taken up during 1994-95 and continued in 1995-96 and to monitor the progress of the said exercise, an Expert Group has been constituted by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) with the Chairman and Managing Director of Syndicate Bank as its Chairman. An Officer each of Govt. of India, RBI, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Bank of Baroda, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Syndicate Bank, Canara Bank and Chairman, Gorakhpur Gramin Bank are members of the Group.

The Group has been set up to make recommendations on policy issues to the RBI on an ongoing basis and report progress in the restructuring exercise at quarterly intervals.

#### Return of Exported Items Due to Poor Packaging

332. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of the various export items and engineering products are being returned by the foreign countries or are damaged due to packaging defects;

(b) if so, the total value of engineering products, readymade garments and food items returned or damaged in transportation during each of the last three years; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government so far to improve the situation in this regard and outcome thereof?