

Import of Diamonds

754. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the quantity and the value of diamond imported during 1991-92 for the purpose of processing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): According to the figures from the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), the quantity and the value of diamonds imported from April, 1991 upto January, 1992 for processing were 495.21 lakh carats and Rs. 3968.68 crores respectively.

Reduction in Posts

755. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:
SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA
NAYAK:
SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH
HOODA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to reduce drastically the posts at various levels including that of Secretary, Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary in the Ministries and Departments of the Government of India;

(b) if so, the number of such posts abolished or reduced or proposed to be reduced;

(c) whether the Government also propose to drastically reduce the number of central posts for IAS officers deputed from State cadres and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government also propose to reduce the retirement age of the Government employees from 58 to 55 years; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) and (b). With a view to effect economy in expenditure, a review of the staff strength in the Ministries/ Departments of the Central Government and their field formations has been taken up to identify posts at various levels that could be surrendered/abolished. The review is still in progress. It is, therefore, not possible at this stage to indicate the number of posts that would be finally reduced.

(c) There is no proposal to alter the Central Deputation Reserve.

(d) There is no proposal to reduce the retirement age from 58 to 55.

(e) Does not arise.

Sale of Foreign Goods

756. SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the foreign goods are being sold in the market these days;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check such sale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). Available reports indicate that consumer goods of foreign origin which have been imported as baggage or

smuggled into the country are being clandestinely sold in certain markets. Intelligence is targetted against open display and sale of such consumer goods and raids are con-

ducted from time to time. The number of such raids and searches carried out and the value of goods seized during the last few years are given in the table below:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of town raids/ searches carried out</i>	<i>Value of goods seized in town raids/searches (Rs. in crores)</i>
1988	7785	23.15
1989	7077	37.90
1990	12021	45.24
1991	3224	40.40

The persons found involved are penalised in departmental adjudications, are prosecuted in suitable cases and are also detained under the provisions of the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 if considered necessary.

[*English*]

Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme

757. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether about twenty five textile mills have been closed down in Gujarat since 1985 and above forty five thousand workers have become unemployed;

(b) whether the Union Government have introduced Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) to protect the interest of the workers;

(c) if so, whether about twenty six thousand workers are entitled for compensation under TWRFS Scheme and out of that only

twelve thousand workers got this benefit so far;

(d) if so, the reasons for not paying the benefit to the remaining workers under this scheme; and

(e) the time by which these workers are likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) As per the statistics made available by Textile Commissioners, Bombay, 22 Textile Mills (1 spinning unit, 19 Composite mills, 1 woollen unit and 1 weaving unit) have been closed in Gujarat since 1985, and as on 31st December, 1991 about 45,000 workers have been affected due to closure.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e). 34842 workers of 17 textile mills were found eligible for relief under the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS). So far 13425 workers have been paid relief under the Scheme, the remaining 21417 workers have not been paid relief