

Revamping of Bullion Policy

6033. SHRI YASHWANRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to revamp the bullion policy with a view to curb smuggling ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The Hon'ble Member presumably has in mind and possible changes in the bullion policy by amendments to the Gold (Control) Act, 1968 with a view to curb smuggling. If so, there is no such proposal with the Government at present.

Decline in Production of Darjeeling Tea

6034. SHRI YASHWANTRAO

Year	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
									Provisional
Production Units.	11.34	11.58	11.53	10.81	12.69	12.23	14.13	14.26	13.17

The major constraints faced by Darjeeling tea industry have been low productivity, resulting in high costs coupled with unremunerative prices.

There has been a welcome improvement in Darjeeling prices in 1984 which has improved its prospects. The tea marketing policy for 1985 also favours exports of higher value teas like Darjeeling. Measures taken to improve situation of Darjeeling gardens include reduction of excise duty to a nominal level of 20 paise per kg. and provision of interest subsidy on bank loans for development of the gardens. For this purpose NABARD has also agreed on liberalization of norms relating to moratorium and repayment period and

GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether production of Darjeeling tea has been steadily declining ;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the comparative decline in the production of Darjeeling tea during the last three years ;

(c) the reasons thereof ; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d). Except for yearly fluctuations, mainly on account of weather conditions, the trend of production of Darjeeling tea has shown a marginal increase in the last 9 years as can be seen from the following figures :

also on funding of past liabilities wherever considered necessary.

Export of Non-Traditional Agricultural Commodities to Japan

6035. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state ;

(a) the present position regarding non-rational agricultural commodities export to Japan ;

(b) whether Government have considered the question of increasing the export of non-traditional agricultural commodities to Japan ;

(c) if so, the strategy evolved by Government in this regard ; and