

**Exemption of silver and gold ornaments from the excise duty**

3664. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government through the notification No. 181/85 published in its extraordinary Gazette of 1st August, 1985 exempted silver and gold ornaments and articles from the whole of Central excise duty;

(b) whether subsequently the Central Excise authorities in Maharashtra issued trade notices that since the Central Government's notification did not contain any reference to exemption from Central excise duty to gold and silver wires, strips and plates duty will be levied on them; and

(c) if so, whether in view of the fact that the gold and silver wires, strips and plates were not manufactured saleable items under any Act, Government propose to issue a fresh notification stating in clear terms that Central excise duty will not be levied on them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) By notification No. 181/85-Central Excises dated 1.8.1985, ornaments and the like articles made of gold or silver or both, whether or not set with stones, gems or pearls were completely exempted from Central excise duty.

(b) In Bombay, Central Excise authorities issued letters to certain units manufacturing gold wires, strips and plates stating that exemption under notification No. 181/85-CE dated 1.8.85 was not available to such products and that they should clear such goods after complying with Central Excise formalities. No such communication was issued in respect of silver wires, strips and plates which stood exempted from central excise duty under a separate notification.

(c) Notification No. 194/86-CE dated 11.3.1986 has since been issued exempting strips, wires, sheets, plates and foils of

gold used in the manufacture of articles of jewellery and parts thereof. The exemption for silver wires, strips, plates and foils available under the notification No. 234/82-CE dated 1.11.1982 in the erstwhile Central Excise Tariff, has been continued in the new tariff under notification No. 53/86-CE dated 10.2.1986.

**Decision to stop import of sugar**

3665. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to stop import of sugar;

(b) if so, whether it will reduce the quantity of sugar being supplied to ration card holders through Public Distribution System; and

(c) whether the dual price policy and freesale of sugar will continue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) Import of sugar has been restricted to the extent of shortfall in the availability of indigenous sugar for meeting the requirement of internal consumption.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The policy of partial control with dual pricing has already been announced for the current 1985-86 season.

**Turnover based incentive to exporters**

3666. SHRI SIMON TIGGA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased state :

(a) whether Government plan to provide incentive based on turnovers and not on profits and allow the exporters to retain a portion of the foreign exchange; and

(b) if so, when; and