

(c) Reserve Bank of India has estimated a growth rate at 17.3% during the year 1989-90.

(d) The growth of deposits by banks is continuously monitored by the Reserve Bank of India and suitable instructions are issued to ensure that banks sustain growth rates in mobilisation of deposits.

Smuggling of Gold and Heroin

2988. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States and Indian Officials are increasingly concerned over the significant rise in gold smuggling into India and its possible connection to international heroin trafficking;

(b) if so, whether both the countries have agreed for a solution in checking gold smuggling; and

(c) if so, the what extent both Governments have agreed to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). There is no specific move towards any joint approach between the Governments of India and the United States of America to deal with the problem of gold smuggling into India.

Financial Results of Coffee House

2989. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial results of the coffee houses run by the Coffee Board in Delhi and other towns during 1988-89 and 1989-90; and

(b) the reasons for losses, if any, and

the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve their working financially?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) The Coffee Houses were started by the Coffee Board for promotional purposes and for holding the price line and not as commercial ventures. Most of the coffee houses run by the Coffee Board in Delhi and other towns incurred excess of expenditure over receipts during 1988-89 and 1989-90.

The aggregate of excess of expenditure over receipts for all the coffee houses run by the Coffee Board for the two years is as under:

Year	in Rs. Lakhs)
1988-89	84.22
1989-90	57.36
(April -Sept.)	

(b) There are several factors which are responsible for the coffee houses of the Board incurring expenditure in excess of receipts. These are (i) the Coffee Houses are located in Government building where they have a restricted clientele (ii) it has not been possible for the Coffee Board to fix prices commensurate with the cost of inputs due to resistance from sponsoring authorities and their employees' unions; (iii) Salary and allowance of the staff of the coffee houses have been steadily increasing.

Efforts have been made to identify and cut down wasteful expenditure on staff and maintenance & contingencies and selling price of coffee & catering items have also been revised. Further it has been decided that proposals for opening new coffee houses would be entertained only from departments which give an undertaking to fully bear the losses such as may occur.