

1	2	3
17.	Nagaland	5010
18.	Orissa	2051664
19.	Punjab	463791
20.	Rajasthan	1909067
21.	Sikkim	9394
22.	Tamil Nadu	1978223
23.	Tripura	146125
24.	Uttar Pradesh	5155333
25.	West Bengal	1496178
26.	Chandigarh	3363
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2798
28.	Daman & Diu	1115
29.	Delhi	10978
30.	Lakshadweep	91
31.	Pondicherry	41532
32.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4755
	Total:	29545139

SETHU CANAL PROJECT AS DEFENCE PROJECT

1431. DR. V. RAJESHWARAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- whether there is any proposal to declare Sethu Canal as a defence project;
- if so, the time by which it is to be so declared; and
- if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (c). No, Sir. The Project does not have adequate relevance, from the Defence angle.

(b) Does not arise.

GOLD AND SILVER RESERVES

1432. SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM :
SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- the quantity of gold and silver reserves with the Union Government as on July 31, 1991 and the minimum gold reserves required to maintain the stability of the economy; and
- whether the Government have any arrangement to sell gold to the public; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) As on 31st July 1991, the stock of gold in Government account was 12.65 MT (Gross weight). This is in addition to 20 MT of gold leased to State Bank of India in May 1991 for raising foreign exchange resources in the short term and 2 MT of gold placed as imprest with State Bank of India for operating the Gold Jewellery Export Promotion and Replenishment Scheme. The gold in Government account mentioned above is quite apart and distinct from the gold held by Reserve Bank of India as part of the country's foreign exchange assets, which is equivalent to 332.56 MT, including the quantity of 46.91 MT of gold kept in the Bank of England. As on July 31, 1991, the quantity of silver held by the Government is 2178 MT. This silver is of assorted purity levels.

In terms of Section 33(2) of the Reserve Bank of India, Act, 1934, the aggregate value of gold coin and gold bullion held as assets of the Issue Department shall not at any time be less than Rs. 115 crores. As on July 31, 1919 the value of gold held in the Reserve Bank of India was Rs. 9105.81 crores.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.