

	Qty. (in MTs.)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1990-91	139419	893.37
1991-92	171820	1375.89

(Provisional)

(Source: MPEDA, Cochin)

The State- Wise export statistics are not compiled and hence it is not possible to state the contribution of Kerala in the above exports.

(c) to (e). Government is implementing schemes in the following areas through MPEDA, for the development of seafood industry and to increase export earnings from this sector:

- (i) Schemes for increasing production and productivity of aquaculture farms.
- (ii) Schemes for increasing production through diversified fishing.
- (iii) Modernisation of seafood industry for production of value added items. MPEDA is also providing extension service through its regional and sub-regional offices located in the maritime States.

Gold Smuggling

550. SHRISHIRAVANKUMAR PATEL:

Period	Quantity (in kgs.)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1.4.1991 to 30.6.1991	1744	6140
1.4.1992 to 30.6.1992	551	2240

Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether gold smuggling is still on the rise even after the introduction of the gold import policy with effect from March 1, 1992;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number and details of smuggled gold hauls made by the enforcement authorities since May, 1992 and during each quarter of 1991; and

(d) the further steps proposed to be taken to check gold smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). Since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not possible to say whether the smuggling of gold into the country is still on the rise. However, the quantity and value of gold seized during the period from 1.4.92 to 30.6.92 shows a downward trend when compared with the quantity and value of gold seized during the corresponding period of the calendar year 1991 as given in the table below:-

The number of cases and the quantity and value of gold seized by the Customs authorities during each of the four quarters of 1991 and the first two quarters of 1992 and during May and June 1992 are given below:-

Priod	No. of cases	Quantity (in kgs.)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1991			
January-March	622	1384	4815
April-June	1307	1744	6140
July-September	745	958	3933
October-December	361	860	3986
1992			
January-March	608	986	4626
* April-June	147	551	2240
* May-June	41	36	1343

* Figures are provisional

(d) The anti smuggling drive has been intensified. Intelligence is targeted against the major smuggling syndicates and close coordination is being maintained between all the agencies concerned with the detection and prevention of smuggling including that of gold.

Export of Rubber

551. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the MINISTER OF COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of scarcity of suitable grade rubber in the market, the State Trading Corporation is exporting rubber even at a loss;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this has led to increase in the prices of rubber in the local markets; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d). Only excess rubber that was available after taking into account supply and the domestic demand was allowed to be exported. The exports of natural rubber as such did not lead to an increase in the prices of rubber in the local market. The recent increase in price is a seasonal phenomenon that can be attributed to the on-set of the monsoon and consequential fall in production of natural rubber. The STC has been advised to release the stocks of rubber held by them so as to ensure adequate supply to the consumers. STC has also since stopped further export of rubber.

[*Translation*]

Import of Gold

552. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKHI: Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gold brought to India after the introduction of gold import policy from March, 1992 so far; and

(b) the amount earned by the Government therefrom as taxes/ duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Under gold import policy introduced from 1st March, 1992, 22.25 tonnes of gold has been imported upto 6th July, 1992.

(b) Duty amount of Rs.56.62 crores (in foreign exchange) has been realised therefrom.

[*English*]

Launching of Agni

553. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:
DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA:
SHRI PANDURANG PUN-
DLIK FUNDKAR:
SHRI D. VENKATESIWARA
RAO:
SHRI E. AHAMED:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR
MANDAL:

Will the MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the second west launching of Agni at Chandipore has proved unsuccessful;