

(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;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken to overcome the hurdles for making it a success; and

(d) the time by which the third launch is scheduled to be held?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). The second launch of 'AGNI' was conducted on 29 May 92 from ITR, Balasore. However, this flight trial was not completely successful due to control-structure interaction problem encountered during the flight.

(c) Post flight analysis of the second launch is being carried out in order to avoid such problems in subsequent launches.

(d) The third launch of 'AGNI' is expected to be undertaken shortly after correcting the shortcomings.

[Translation]

#### Dunkel proposals

554. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:  
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:  
SHRI CHIITA BASU:

Will the MINISTER OF COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dunkel proposals were discussed with the Director-General of GATT in May 1992;

(b) if so, the details of the subjects which figured in the discussion;

(c) the views expressed by the Indian representatives on various aspects of the proposals and the outcome of the discussions held; and

(d) the time by which the Government's stand as Dunkel proposals is expected to be finalised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d). The Minister of State for Commerce had discussions regarding the Uruguay Round of Negotiations with Mr. Arthur Dunkel, Director General, GATT on May 12, 1992 at Geneva. Prospects of the Uruguay Round being concluded and issues of present concern to India were discussed.

Government have not yet taken a final view on the compromise proposals of Director General GATT, with regard to the Uruguay Round of Negotiations. Therefore, the question of Indian representatives formally expressing views on the proposals does not arise. However, informally an indication has been given to the principal trading countries and to the Director General, GATT, of our intention to seek improvements and changes in the text. Government propose to initiate a full debate in Parliament on this subject, and a final view would only be taken thereafter.

#### Loans given by NHB

555. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans advanced to various institutions by the National Housing Bank during each of the last two years;

(b) the number of cases in which the amount of loan exceeded more than Rs.5 crore;