

been seized by the officers of Collectorate of Customs (Preventive), Gujarat, during December 1990 in Jamnagar. In one case, 2060 gold biscuits weighing 20600 tolas (approx.) were seized from a cargo vessel 'MSV-SAIFALA' on 9.12.1990. In the other case, 2500 gold biscuits weighing 25000 tolas (approx.) worth Rs. 9.77 crores (approx.) were seized from a cargo vessel 'NSV-NARANPRASAD' on 12.12.1990. 5 persons have been arrested in connection with the above cases.

Policy of Restricted Imports

145. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently changed their policy of restricted imports to save foreign exchange; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDASPATEL): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A number of import compression measures have been taken by the Government recently to conserve limited resources of Free Foreign Exchange. These include, inter-alia:—

(i) A cut of 15% has been imposed on the import entitlement, whether under OGL or against a licence, of Actual Users engaged in the manufacture of automobiles, electronic items and consumer durables.

(ii) A number of items of raw materials, components and Capital Goods have been removed from OGL list in view of indigenous angle.

(iii) A closer scrutiny of Supplementary Licensing applications is being made where value exceeds Rs. 2 crores. Actual users are required to surrender REP/Addl. licences of value equivalent to 50% of the amount in excess of Rs. 2 crores.

(iv) The facility for import of items of raw material, components, consumables and spares as well as jigs, fixtures, moulds etc., not specified in the Import Policy, under OGL, has been suspended for a period of 8 months with effect from 6th November, 1990.

Free Legal Aid in cases of maintenance for Divorced Wives

146. SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide free legal assistance in cases of maintenance for divorced wives;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY): (a) to (c). Women including divorced wives are already being provided free legal assistance at all levels right from the Subordinate Courts to the Supreme Court without any limitation as to income.

Decontrol of Steel

147. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKATA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state: