

[Translation]

Supply of Narcotics

986. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the smuggling of narcotics between India and Nepal is on increase;

(b) if so, the details of the places of smuggling between both the country. and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check its smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) Drug smuggling is a clandestine activity and therefore it cannot be said definitely whether smuggling of narcotics between India and Nepal is on increase or otherwise. However by virtue of proximity, the areas along Indo-Nepal border are vulnerable to smuggling of narcotics.

(b) Lakhimpur, Siddarthnagar in Uttar Pardesh and Raxaul, East and West Champaran in Bihar are some of the places noticed to be sensitive for smuggling.

(c) Instructions have been issued to all the enforcement agencies to maintain the utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the stringnet provisions contained in NDPS Act. Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. Vehicles and communication equipments have been provided. BSF, who are deployed on land borders have been vested with the powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs on the border in addition to other Central and State Government enforcement agencies empowered under the NDPS Act.

[English]

Export of Textiles

987. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether quota system in the export of cloth has been abolished under the World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, whether the Government are preparing any action plan to face the challenges in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c). The quota system for the export of textiles and clothing has not been abolished under the World Trade Organisation

with immediate effect. However, the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) included in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round, envisages complete integration of the textile sector into the multilateral framework of GATT/WTO at the end of a 10 year transition period, after which all quotas on textiles and clothing are to come to an end.

In order to step up the exports of textiles, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

Small Denomination Coins

988. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 1, 2, 5 and 10 paise coins are being minted and circulated through designated banks :

(b) if not, the year from which their minting or circulation discontinued and the methodology to be employed by consumers to make each payments of odd fractions of rupee; and

(c) if so, details of these coins minted and circulated by designated banks during the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PRASAD PAL) : (a) and (b). 5 paise and 10 paise coins are being minted and circulated through designated banks. 1 paise & 2 paise coins are no longer being minted as all transactions are rounded off to the nearest of 5 paise. The decision of the Government of India to discontinue minting of 1 paise, 2 paise & 3 paise coins was announced in the Lok Sabha on 29.3.81.

(c) The details of 5 & 10 paise coins minted and supplied by Government Mints during last two years are as indicated below :-

(Pieces in millions)

Denominations	1993-94		1994-95	
	Minted	Supplied	Minted	Supplied*
5 p.	59	71	30	31
10 p.	82	88	11	13

* Supplies include supplies out of stocks of coins minted in previous year.