

(d) Various steps have been initiated for increasing production and productivity of pepper. International cooperation is achieved under the aegis of the International Pepper Community. Other promotional measures, such as participation in fairs, visits of business delegations etc. are being under taken. For the over all development of exports of spices including pepper, Govt. have decided to set up a Spices Board.

Loss due to Discontinuance of Interest Tax on Interest

2881. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated loss per year to Government Exchequer due to the proposed discontinuance of interest-tax on interest accruing after 31st, March, 1985; and

(b) the amount of interest tax Government received during the years of the Sixth Five Year Plan, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Loss of interest-tax during the financial year 1985-86 is estimated at Rs. 170 crores. However, as interest-tax is deductible in computing the taxable income under the Income-tax Act, a part of the loss as a result of discontinuance of interest-tax will be recouped by higher collections of income-tax. In view thereof, the net loss on account of discontinuance of interest tax during the financial year 1985-86 is expected to be of the order of Rs. 85 crores.

(b) Financial Year	Collection of interest-tax (Rs. in crores)
1980-81	89.59
1981-82	231.67
1982-83	265.47
1983-84	177.91
1984-85	105.66
(Upto 28th February, 1985)	

Smuggling of Gold by Foreign Diplomats

2882. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH :
SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN :
SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been cases of smuggling of gold and other contraband items the country by foreign deplomants;

(b) the total value of gold and other contraband items thus seized from the haggage of diplomats;

(c) the action taken against the concerned diplomats; and

(d) whether a protest has also been lodged with the foreign Governments represented by these diplomats ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total value of gold and other contraband items seized from the baggage and other goods imported by foreign diplomats during the period from January, 1984 to March, 1985 is furnished below :

Item	Value (Rs. in lankhs)
Gold	50
Other contraband goods	17.64

(c) Appropriate action was taken in all such cases in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs. Mostly, the diplomats, who, or whose close relatives' were found engaged in smuggling activity, were recalled by their Governments.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Iron Ore Mining Areas in Orissa

2883. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the iron ore mining areas in Orissa;

(b) the approximate annual production of various grades of iron ore from each of these sectors; and

(c) the steps presently taken for the proper consumption and utilisation of the iron ore produced in these mining sectors in Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K,