

of the Council among different regions do not warrant shifting of the Head quarters of the Council for Leather Exports from Madras to Delhi.

Study Conducted by G. S. I About Deposits of Gold in Palghat, Kerala

3725. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India had conducted any study about the deposit of gold in the Palghat region of Kerala ;

(b) if so, the result of the study ;

(c) whether Government have a plan for commercial extraction of gold in this region ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Very minor occurrences of gold from Sivrani river and Attapady valley in Palghat district of Kerala were noticed by the Geological Survey of India.

(c) and (d) As the results of the surveys did not give encouraging results the question of commercial exploitation of gold from this region does not arise.

[Translation]

Export of Stapled Cotton Bales.

3726. SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of long and extra stapled cotton bales proposed to be exported and the institutions entrusted with this work as also the criterion fixed therefor ;

(b) the quantum of cotton production this year in the States indicating the requirement within the country and the hitch in granting permission for the export of remaining cotton ; and

(c) the institutions besides the Cotton Corporation entrusted with the work of export and the reasons therefor and also the reasons for not paying attention towards those institutions which look after the interests of cotton growers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) It has been decided to export 2 lakhs bales of long and extra long staple cotton during the current cotton year. Out of this a quantity of 1.95 lakh bales has already been released for export in favour of the Cotton Corporation of India Limited, Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation, Gujarat State Cooperative Cotton Federation and Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing Federation. Only such varieties of cotton as are surplus to our domestic requirements are released for exports.

(b) The total production of cotton in the various cotton growing States during the current cotton year has been estimated at 84.75 lakh bales by the Cotton Advisory Board on 2nd February, 1985. There are, however, indications that the production may be in excess of 84.75 lakh bales. The total consumption including Mill consumption (82 lakhs bales) and consumption by users other than Mill (4.65 lakh bales) is estimated at about 86.65 lakh bales. Cotton situation in the country is reviewed from time to time and appropriate decisions with regard to export/import of cotton are taken as considered necessary.

(c) In addition to the exports by Cotton Corporation of India Limited export quotas have been released in favour of the State Apex Cooperative Marketing Federations such as Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation, Gujarat State Cooperative Cotton Federation and Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing Federation. All these organisations take care of the interests of cotton growers.

[English]

Contraband Goods Seized During 1984

3727. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the airport and sea port-wise break up of contraband goods such as gold, silver, diamond, watches and electronic goods seized during the year 1984 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :