

equipment. In addition, appropriate anti-smuggling measures, both short-term and long-term are taken in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities. The trends of smuggling and seizures are kept under constant review for taking appropriate remedial action, as warranted.

[English]

Foreign Exchange Reserve

2810. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the Foreign Exchange Reserve stood as on 31st March, 1985;

(b) the Foreign Exchange Reserve stood as on 31 March, 1984;

(c) whether the Reserve has gone up or gone down; and

(d) if gone down, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The foreign exchange reserves (excluding Gold and Special Drawing Rights) which stood at Rs. 5497.85 crores on 31st March, 1984 went up by Rs. 1318.93 crores to Rs. 6816.78 crores as on 31st March, 1985.

(d) Does not arise.

Steps to Encourage Joint Sector/Private Sector Units in Steel Industry

2811. SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps are being taken by his Ministry to encourage Joint sector/private sector units of medium size steel industry to ensure that the gap in steel production is met and the country is self-reliant in steel over the next few years;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is considered desirable especially when there is shortage of funds in the public sector;

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) to (e). There is no proposal at present to set up medium size units in steel industry in the Joint Sector with the participation of Government of India.

The industrial licensing policy for steel industry provides scope for private sector/joint sector (State Governments and private sector) to set up medium size units in the steel industry.

Efforts are being made to attain self-sufficiency by increasing domestic production of steel through better capacity utilisation, modernisation/technological upgradation of the existing steel plants, expansion of existing steel plants and by setting up of new steel making capacity.

Value of Seizures Trade by Central Board of Excise and Customs

2812. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value of anti-smuggling seizure made by the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) in the first two quarters of this year; and

(b) how do they compare with the figures of last year of the corresponding period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The value of smuggled goods seized under the Customs Act during the first and second quarters of 1985 and the corresponding periods of 1984, is given below :

Total value of seizures
(Rs. in crores)

	1984	1985*
First quarter	28.39	47.38
Second quarter	22.71	38.29

*Figures are provisional.