

- (iii) Conduct of feasibility studies with respect to products, infrastructure requirements;
- (iv) Upgradation of technical skills of supervisory, technical and managerial personnel of growers and manufacturers - exporters through training in India.
- (v) Research and development to be conducted by the research institutions as a part of the export enhancement efforts;
- (vi) Air Freight subsidy for exports by air of certain horticultural, floricultural and selected vegetables to specified destinations.

The amount of financial assistance provided by APEDA during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as follows:-

	<i>Rs. in Lakhs</i>
1993-94	511.65
1994-95	615.14
1995-96	675.00

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

#### **Anti-Defection Law**

2001 SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reformulate the anti-defection law.

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be reformulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c). The question as to whether an appellate authority should be provided to hear appeals from the decisions of Presiding Officers is proposed to be discussed by the Government with leaders of various political parties and in case a consensus emerges for making amendments in the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, Government would consider bringing forward a bill for the purpose.

#### **Smuggling of Gold**

2002. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smuggling of gold is still going on in the country in spite of the introduction of the liberalised gold policy;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check it; and

(c) the gold seized during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Based on statistics of contraband gold seized and intelligence reports pertaining to smuggling of gold there appears to be a decline in smuggling of gold. However, smuggling of gold is still being noticed and a definite trend regarding quantum of smuggling cannot be stated with certainty due to clandestine nature of smuggling activities.

(b) Measures taken to prevent smuggling of gold into the country include liberalized import of gold since 1992 under passenger baggage scheme to make large quantities of legally imported gold available for consumption in India, high alert maintained by anti smuggling agencies to detect and prevent smuggling of gold into the country by surveillance over sensitive areas, targeting of intelligence and use of sophisticated equipments like metal detectors, colour baggage X-ray machines etc. in ports and airports.

(c) The value of gold seized during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Gold Seized (Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94	5502
1994-95	5543
1995-96	5087

[Translation]

#### **Trade Agreement with Nepal**

2003 DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the Indo-Nepal trade ties;

(b) if so, the details of areas selected for this purpose;

(c) whether the Government have signed any new trade agreement with Nepal recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said agreement is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b). India and Nepal are both committed to increasing their bilateral trade within the framework of the Indo-Nepal Trade Treaty of 1991. Various aspects bilateral