

(e) In cannot precisely be stated at this stage as to how much additional amount would be collected as a result of these circulars.

**Potential for development of hiking
in Sikkim**

857. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Sikkim has tremendous potential for the development of hiking; and

(b) if so, the initiatives taken by the Union Government to foster it ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the year 1985-86, the Central Department of Tourism has approved a scheme for construction of trekkers' huts along various trek-routes in Sikkim at an estimated cost of Rs. 15.16 lakhs. Another proposal for provision of trekking equipments at estimated cost of Rs. 3.88 lakhs is under consideration.

**Smuggling of gold from Dubai, Hong
Kong and Singapore**

858. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMAMURTY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that gold is being smuggled into the country from Dubai's Sona Bazar, Hong Kong and Singapore; and

(b) the value of the smuggled gold seized during 1984 and 1985 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI) : (a) Reports received and seizures made indicate that gold continues to be sensitive to smuggling into India by air, sea and land from Gulf countries, Hong Kong and Singapore.

(b) The value of gold seized during the years 1984, 1985 is given below :

Year	Value (Rs. in crores)
1984	10.24
1985	51.56 (provisional)

**Adverse effect of hike of petroleum
prices on exports**

859. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the export effort which had yielded rather disappointed results during the current year, is likely to be hit further by the recent hike in petroleum prices;

(b) whether price hike will raise our cost of production and make product less competitive in the world market; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to save the industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) to (c). It is not right to conclude that our export efforts have yielded disappointing results during the current financial year. Our export performance depends on a number of factors including external economic environment and domestic economic situation. The recent increase in prices of petroleum products is not likely to have any substantial impact on the competitiveness of our products in the world market.

**Allocation of sugar quota to States and
Union Territories**

860. SHRI D. B. PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that quantum of sugar per head per month has been fixed for distribution through fair price shops by Government;

(b) if so, the quantum so fixed;

(c) whether sugar is not allocated to