

The sale of gold would be restricted to persons authorised to acquire/possess standard gold bars under the Gold (Control) Act for the purpose of conversion into ornaments.

Selling of Gold coins by religious Institutions.

6801. SHRI SARAT KAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to allow religious institutions like the Tirupathi temple and Jagannathpuri Temples to make gold 'coins' with the emblem of the Lord and sell them to the people with the provision under which persons in financial constraints if they deposited the 'coin' either with banks or with financial institutions of the Government would get loan equal to 50 per cent of the 'coins' face value; and

(b) whether such a liberalised policy on gold, besides helping the rural people in getting contingency loans would lead to considerable fall in the prices of land and other commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGRAWAL): (a) Tirumalai-Tirupathi Devasthanam has been permitted under Gold Control Act since 1970 to manufacture gold medals in the form of lockets embossed with images of the presiding deities, out of temple's declared stock of gold, for sale to devotees.

Such requests for permission from other religious institutions can be considered on merits under the Gold Control Act.

The lockets with the images of deities are treated as ornaments; there is no restriction in obtaining loans from banks/financial institutions by pledging gold ornaments.

(b) The above permission has been granted within the ambit of the Gold (Control) Act.

भारत में 1979 में आयोजित किया जाने वाला अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार मेला

6802. श्री राम सेवक हजारी: क्या वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पुति और

सहकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का विचार 1979 में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार मेला आयोजित करने का है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी मुख्य बातें क्या हैं; और

(ग) एशिया-1972 मेले की तुलना में इस मेले के कहां तक सफल होने की संभावना है ?

वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पुति और सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आरिफ बेग) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) तथा (ग) . मेले की योजनाओं को अभी तक अन्तिम रूप नहीं दिया गया है; लेकिन यह प्रयत्न होगा कि उद्योग, कृषि एवं व्यापार के विविध पहलुओं को इसमें शामिल किया जाये ।

Investment in Public Undertakings

6803. CHAUDHARY BALBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how much money has been invested by the Government in Government Undertakings and which are the ten largest Government Undertakings;

(b) how many of the Government Undertakings has been registered under Companies Act and how many are under an Act of Parliament;

(c) how much profit has been earned on the total investment during the last four years;

(d) whether Government Undertakings are not earning the desired profits as compared to the Private Sector Companies;

(e) what is the Capital out put ratio in the Government Undertakings as compared to the private sector; and

(f) what are the main reasons for less profits in Government Undertakings and what steps Government propose to take to earn more profits and thus run the