

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (d). The bank has reported that it does not conduct promotion tests for the posts of Head Cashiers and Head Clerks. Promotions from Clerical to Officers' cadre are made in the Bank. In officers' cadre, from 1973 to 1978, 1555 promotions have been made. The Bank introduced reservation in promotion for Scheduled Castes/Tribes employees in the year 1978. The number of employees—SC/ST and general promoted to officers' cadre after reservation in promotion was introduced in 1978, is as follows:

General	SC	ST	Total
725	65	22	812

There is no backlog of reserved vacancies for SC/ST employees as regards promotions on the basis of test and interview. There is, however, a backlog of reserved vacancies to be filled by promotion on the basis of seniority and interview. This is due to non-availability of sufficient number of senior SC/ST employees. To make more and more SC/ST employees eligible for promotion, eligibility norms and standard for ranking in promotion were reduced by the bank in favour of these employees. The matter is being continuously reviewed by the bank to clear the backlog.

Import of Saleable Steel

3042. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import saleable steel during 1980-81;

(b) if so, the demand during the current year; and

(c) the total domestic production and quantity to be imported and its cost?

1071 LS—7.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The promotion of steel in 1980-81 is expected to be 9.0 million tonnes, as against the estimated demand of 10.2 million tonnes. The Steel Authority of India Limited has been authorised to arrange buffer imports upto 0.69 million tonnes during the year. In addition, they will also import on 'back to back' basis against demands from individual customers. Actual Users, Registered Exporters and Export Houses are also permitted to import under the current policy.

The imports by SAIL on buffer and back to back basis may cost about Rs. 550 crores, but this will depend on the demand actually registered with them. It is difficult to estimate the import by other importers.

Smuggled Gold and Silver seized by Custom Authority

3043. SHRI VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of smuggled gold and silver and its value seized by the Custom Authority in various parts of the country during the years 1977, 1978, 1979 and 1980 (June-end);

(b) how many persons were arrested in each year and how many of them were punished with details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that gold and silver smuggling has not been effectively curbed, in spite of various preventive measures taken by Government; and

(d) whether Government have formulated a new 'Crush-smuggling-programme' for the borders and ports of India to stop smuggling?