

(iii) Varanasi—Bodh Gaya folder in English;

(iv) Buddhist Shrines folder in English and Sinhalese;

(v) India the right place—The tourist map of India—in English.

(c) No, Sir.

Smuggling of Silver to Pakistan

3083. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the smuggling of silver and silver coins to Pakistan is going on since long; and

(b) if so, steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Government have no information whether smuggling of silver to Pakistan has been going on since long. However, the quantity and value of silver seized by the Customs authorities while being attempted to be smuggled to Pakistan across the land border is as follows:—

Year	Quantity of silver (inkgs.)	Value Rs. in lakhs)
1977.
1978.
1979.	1009	20
1980.	745	22
(Upto May, 1980)		

(b) The Customs field formations, the Border Security Force and the State Police authorities along the Indo-Pakistan border have been alerted to maintain strict vigil against any attempts to smuggle silver to Pakistan across the land border.

The provisions of Chapter IVB of the Customs Act, 1962, containing regulatory provisions on the storage, transport and sale of silver were extended to 50 Kms. belt along the Indo-Pakistan border with effect from 27th Marh, 1980.

Production of Poppy Husk in Mandsaur (M.P.)

3084. SHRI B R. NAHATA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how much poppy husk has been produced in Mandsaur District of Madhya Pradesh during the last four years i.e. from 1976 to 1980 and what use of this poppy husk has been made during this period;

(b) whether there was a proposal for starting an alkaloid factory using poppy husk as raw material in the area and whether it has been cancelled; and

(c) if so, whether Government are taking steps to start another factory in the area based on poppy husk either with local enterprises or foreign collaboration?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) The poppy husk produced in Mandsaur District of Madhya Pradesh during the last four years is estimated as under:

Crop Year	Estimated production of poppy husk (in tonnes)
1976-77	9,450
1977-78	10,607
1978-79	9,076
1979-80	5,01

The poppy husk is mainly utilised:

(i) for export to foreign countries mainly for medicinal and scientific purposes;

(ii) as manure by the cultivators;

(iii) in the indigenous system of medicines, both for internal use and external application; and

(iv) as a popular house-hold remedy for various ailments.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Government had approved a proposal for the setting up of a Plant for extraction of alkaloids from Lanced Poppy Capsules with foreign technical collaboration. However, the foreign collaborators subsequently declined to lend the technology on the agreed terms. Consequently the question of obtaining suitable technology from some other foreign manufacturers is under consideration.

Loans to Small Scale Industries at Concessional Rates

3085. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) is it true that inspite of the declared policy of Government to give loans to small scale industries at concessional rates, in reality this policy is not effectively implemented by many banks; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure the implementation of this policy?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT):

(a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India have advised that on term loans for not less than 3 years granted to artisans, village and cottage industries and other small scale industries, the rate of interest charged does not exceed 11 per cent p.a. (9½ per cent in case of specified backward districts). These rates are

also applicable to composite term loans upto Rs. 25,000 to artisans, village and cottage industries. For working capital limits upto Rs. 1 lakh to tiny sector, the maximum rate of interest is 12½ per cent p.a. (13½ per cent for banks with time and demand liabilities of less than Rs. 25 crores).

The banks are generally following these directives of the RBI. Cases of violation, if any, whenever brought to the notice of the Govt. or RBI are pursued with the concerned bank for remedial action.

Arrests of Silver Smugglers

3086. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details regarding the arrests of silver smugglers during last six months; and

(b) whether some foreigners had also been arrested and if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). According to reports received by Government, 185 persons were arrested in connection with the cases involving smuggling of silver during the period December, 1979 and May, 1980. Of these, 27 persons were foreign nationals.

Deposits of Commercial Banks

3087. SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the total amount deposit in various commercial banks in the country and their investments towards priority sectors?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): Bank Group-wise Deposits of Scheduled Commer-