

requirements. The Cotton Corporation of India has decided to purchase specific quantities of Suvin Cotton which they can sell in the domestic market. Cotton Corporation has also been asked to explore export potential for Suvin variety.

(b) No Egyptian cotton has been imported into the country since 1979-80 cotton season.

Scrapping of Prohibition in Hotels

6388. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL;
SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR;
SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER;
SHRI CHINGWANG
KONYAK:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has made a recommendation to Government to scrap prohibition in hotels;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision in this regard;

(c) whether the proposal if approved will be applicable to all the hotels or only to Government's hotels; and

(d) to what extent it will boost the economy of the hotels?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHRAMA): (a) There is no such proposal to Scrap prohibition in hotels. However, the question of relaxation of prohibition policy of Government in regard to foreign tourists is being examined.

(b) to (d): Do not arise.

Gold Smuggling

—6389. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the lull of almost a year the smuggling of gold into the country has revived and in Bombay

gold biscuits worth about Rs. 4.50 lakhs were seized during the month of February, 1981;

(b) if so, the total quantity of gold seized in various States during January to March, 1981 and what are the main reasons for the increase in smuggling of gold; and

(c) what steps are being taken to check this illegal inflow of gold into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) and (b) Reports received by Government show that gold has recently become sensitive to being smuggled into India on account of the higher price obtaining for the metal in India as compared to its international price.

During February, 1981, the Customs authorities at Bombay seized foreign marked gold valued at about Rs. 8.3 lakhs. The total quantity of gold including gold jewellery seized in India under the Customs Act, 1962, during January and February, 1981 was about 15.6 Kgs.

(c) The preventive and intelligence machinery has been strengthened and the Customs authorities alerted to prevent any attempts at smuggling of gold.

Hike in interest rates of I.D.B.I.

6390. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Industrial Development Bank of India has decided to have a hike in interest rates for its different loan assistance schemes;

(b) if so, whether the main reason put forward has been that the cost of funds to IDBI had gone up by 1 to 1½ per cent in the last one year eroding considerably its profitability; and

(c) if so, what will be the increased rates of interest?