

Import of Coconut Oil from Philippines

4460. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total quantity of coconut oil so far imported from Philippines;

(b) whether Government intend to import some coconut oil from Philippines;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Kerala Government and mass organisations of peasants in the State have demanded that further imports of coconut oil should be cancelled on that ground that such imports would ruin the coconut cultivators of the State and would adversely affect the economy of the State ; and

(e) if so, what decision had been taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c). Import of coconut oil is canalised through State Trading Corporation. The Canalising agency has not made any imports so far. The over-all import statistics available upto January, 1981 also does not show any import of coconut oil from Philippines since April, 1978.

However, in September-October, 1981, an Indian delegation made an exploratory visit, among other countries, to the Philippines for the purpose of import of different kinds of edible oils. No specific agreement in respect of the Philippines has been entered into as the matter is under consideration of the Government.

(d) Representations have been made for not allowing import of coconut oil.

(e) No imports of coconut oil have been made so far except to a limited extent as replenishment against exports.

Global Negotiation

4461. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposals made by the 'Group of 77' regarding global negotiation for a new international economic order have been considered by the developed countries ;

(b) if so, what is their collective or individual reaction to the proposals ;

(c) whether there is any possibility for starting an early dialogue with the developed countries on this issue in the immediate future ; and

(d) if so, what efforts are being made to utilise this possibility ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The summit meeting of the leaders of seven industrial nations held in Versailles, France on June 4-6, 1982, considered the latest draft resolution circulated by the Group of 77 as helpful. They believed that there was good prospect for the early launching and the success of the global negotiations if the independence of the specialised agencies was guaranteed. This position is supported by other developed countries also.

(c) Informal consultations on the subject took place in New York in July, 1982. Differences have been narrowed down and the matter remains under the active consideration of the two groups collectively

and individually. Consultations are expected to be resumed in early September, 1982.

(d) India is in touch with like minded countries, on the subject, with a view to securing early launching of global negotiations.

Smuggling of Gold

4462. SHRI P. K. KODLIAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been increase in the smuggling of gold into the country in the recent period ;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to prevent the smuggling of gold into the country ; and

(c) what is the total quantity of contraband gold seized in the last five years and the value thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA) :

(a) and (c). According to reports received by Government, gold continues to be sensitive to being smuggled into the country on account of the increasing differential between the international and domestic price of the metal.

The total quantity and value of gold seized by the Customs authorities during the period 1978 to 1982 (upto May) is given below :—

Year	Approximate quantity of gold seized (in Kgs.)	Approximate value (Rs. in lakhs)
1978	220	153
1979	134	136
1980	85	130
1981	152	254
1982 (upto May)	559	920

(b) The preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs Department has been strengthened. The Customs authorities have been alerted to prevent any attempts at smuggling of gold into the country.

Post lying vacant in branches of Reserve Bank of India

4463. SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY :
PROF. RUP CHAND PAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) number of posts lying vacant in different branches of the Reserve Bank of India and since when ;

(b) whether Government are considering to fill up the vacancies immediately : and

(c) if so, when and the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) As on 30th June, 1982, 278 posts of officers, 1071 Class III posts and 598 Class IV posts were vacant in different offices of Reserve Bank of India.

(b) and (c). The Reserve Bank of India have reported that it has not been possible to fill up the vacancies in the officers' cadre on account of writ petitions filed by the employees/employees' Association against direct recruitment and departmental promotional system in the bank. Since the matter is subjudice, no time limit for filling up the officers' posts can be determined at this stage.

In some of the offices of the bank, the process of filling up of vacancies in Class III is already in progress. The recruitment and