

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARY SINHA) : (a) No, Sir. Only contracting in the field of civil construction projects abroad has declined in 1982. In so far as export of other projects is concerned, there has been steady increase during the last few years.

(b) Our civil construction projects are concentrated in Iraq and Libya. The contracting for projects in these countries has declined in 1982 on account of continued Iran-Iraq conflict, liquidity problem faced by Iraq and fall in, oil revenues of Libya.

Efforts are being made to diversify our project exports to reverse the decline in contracting for civil construction projects abroad in 1982.

Smuggling of Silver from India

993. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI :

SHRI TRILOK CHAND : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that despite measures taken by Government, there has been a steady rise in the smuggling of silver from India from the Gujarat and Maharashtra coasts;
- (b) if so, what is the estimated value of the silver smuggled out of India in terms of international price since the beginning of 1983 as compared to the corresponding period in 1982 ;
- (c) what is the estimated gap between the demand and supply of silver for industrial consumption and the extent to which the domestic price of silver is pushed up as a result of its smuggling ; and
- (d) what steps are contemplated by Government to tighten the measures to check the smuggling of silver ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO) : (a) According to reports received by Government, silver continues to be sensitive to smuggling out of India through the Maharashtra and Gujarat coasts.

(b) Smuggling, being a clandestine activity, does not by its very nature lend itself to quantitative evaluation to any accurate degree. It would, therefore, be difficult to make a definitive assessment as to the actual volume of smuggling of silver in relation to particular periods.

(c) Reports received by Government do not indicate any gap between the demand for and supply of silver for industrial consumption in the country. The domestic price of silver as quoted in the Bombay market was about Rs. 2678 per Kilogram in September, 1982 when there was a revival in smuggling of silver. This price increased to about Rs. 3311 in June, 1983.

(d) The pattern of smuggling is kept under constant review by Government and appropriate anti-smuggling measures are adopted in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities as warranted by the situation. It will not be in public interest to disclose as to what steps are contemplated by Government to tighten the machinery to check smuggling of silver from India.

Beating up of Army Jawans in Mahwa, Amritsar

994. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV :
SHRI CHHOTAY SINGH
YADAV :

SHRI JAIPAL SINGH KASHYAP :
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Sikh Army Unit landed in the village Mahwa (Amritsar) on June 10, 1983;

(b) whether it is a fact that on June 12, bedding of a Subedar was thrown into a drain and later recovered;