

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4087

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2015

SMUGGLING OF GOLD

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**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether seizure of smuggled gold have risen by an unprecedented scale, if so, the number of such cases reported along with the value of gold seized/confiscated from onwards during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether curbs on gold inputs have to a spurt in gold smuggling activity;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA)

(a): Yes. The details of number of cases of seizure and the value of gold seized during the last three years and the current year upto January 2015 is as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	No. of Cases	Value of gold seized
2011-12	503	43.87
2012-13	900	104.62
2013-14	2450	686.99
2014-15	3412	931.54

(Till Jan., 15)

(b) From the increase in number and value of gold seizure cases, it appears that the spurt in gold smuggling activity in recent years may be partly due to curbs imposed in the gold imports.

(c) The curbs imposed on gold imports by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 22nd July, 2013 and modified on 14th August, 2013 are :

i. Introduction of 20:80 scheme, wherein all the nominated banks and other entities are mandated to ensure availability of 20% of every lot of gold import exclusively for export.

ii. Prohibitions of import of gold in the form of coins and medallions.

(d) The Government has taken various measures to remove the restrictions on the import of gold. On 28.11.2014, the 20:80 scheme for the import of gold was withdrawn. Further, vide RBI circular dated 18.02.2015, nominated banks have been allowed to import gold on consignment basis; Star and Premier Trading Houses (STH / PTH) have been allowed to import gold on document against payment basis as per entitlement without any end use restrictions, and the import of gold coins and medallions is no longer prohibited.

Apart from above, all the field formations including DRI have been sensitized to prevent and detect smuggling of gold.