

**Coir Geo-Textile**

2629. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has approached the Union Government for assistance to Coir Co-operatives for the manufacture of Coir Geo Textiles and for its propagation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala has approached the Government for sanction of Rs. 5 crores to the State Government for giving assistance to Coir Co-operatives for the manufacture of Coir Geo-Textiles and for its propagation within the country and abroad.

(c) to (e) The Government is implementing the various schemes for the promotion and development of coir industry including Coir Geo-Textiles. And for its various schemes, the Government is giving every year budgetary grants to the Coir Board. To popularise Coir Geo-Textiles, the Coir Board has undertaken joint publicity programme of British and German Coir Associations. They have participated in DOMOTEX World Trade Fair, Hannover, Germany in January 1998 and in 29th Annual International Conference for control soil erosion held in USA in February 1998. Coir Geo-Textile has been utilised on the Konkan Railway Project on experimental basis and its final results are awaited.

**Gold Import**

2630. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of gold brought into the country during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 through various airports, airport-wise;

(b) the total revenue earned by the Customs Department therefrom during the above period;

(c) the names of countries from which most of this gold was imported;

(d) whether the Government are aware that a large number of passengers from Gulf countries are acting as carriers for certain unlawful gangs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) The total quantity of the gold imported during the 3 financial years and the revenue earned therefrom is given in the attached Statement.

(c) The most of gold has been imported from the Gulf countries and Singapore.

(d) and (e) In some cases, investigated by the Customs authorities, it appeared that returning Non Resident Indians have been used to carry gold for a consideration in terms of air-fare and/or cash compensations. The main objectives of liberalized Gold Import Scheme, *inter alia* were to encourage the import of gold through licit channels against payment of Customs Duty and to discourage smuggling of gold. It has been reported that the introduction of the Scheme has had desired impact on checking clandestine imports of gold.

**Statement****Import of Gold into India during 1995-96 to 1997-98 under NRI Scheme Airport-wise**

Year	Ahmedabad	Delhi	Mumbai	Chennai	Calcutta	Trivendrum	Calicut	Others	Qty. in Kgs. Rs. in Lakhs	
									Total Rev.	
1995-96	15956.102	80084.518	3083.263	45052.872	65.321	3170.647	67270.260	3544.689	48010.088	
1996-97	3248.401	50152.493	87882.174	60866.299	213.422	3468.720	84013.181	5439.703	64962.562	
1997-90	1160.672	42183.468	119095.094	72631.457	11754.706	5289.421	102554.932	3876.594	78880.367	

**Import of Gold Into India during 1995-96 to 1997-98 under SIL Scheme**

1995-96	14883.374	6691.469	4680.830	457.400	284.300	0.000	0.000	0.000	5939.425
1996-97	29969.542	4746.755	7505.404	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	684.992	9439.473
1997-98	36318.929	9644.244	7651.716	0.000	52.400	0.000	0.000	4803.145	12863.498

**Import of gold by authorised agencies w.e.f. 21.10.97 (Notification No. 80/97-CUS).**

Year 1997-98	Qty. of Gold Imported 212159	Duty 46674.98
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