

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) There is no change in policy of SSI as announced on 6th August, 1991.

(b) and (c) The review of reservation list for the manufacture of items in small scale sector is a continuous process for which there is a Statutory Advisory Committee on Reservation. As on date there are 812 items reserved for manufacture in Small Scale Sector. Large units or foreign companies engaged in the manufacture of reserved SSI items are required to export at least 50% of their production.

(d) and (e) The pollution aspect is taken into consideration irrespective of the fact whether the industry belongs to the small scale or not. However, the procedure for obtaining the Pollution Control Certificate has been simplified for small units wherein except for 17 highly polluted industries mere acknowledgement of the application is considered as a NOC.

Further in case of industries who have installed pollution control processes, the chemicals recovered from such processes, even if they are reserved for SSI Sector, industry is permitted without mandatory export obligation of 50% in the larger interest of sustainable industrial development.

Indian Currency  
22.7.99  
**Spilled Currency Notes**

1614. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued instructions to banks to receive spoiled currency notes of the denomination of Rs. 1, 2, 5 and 10; and

(b) if so, the action taken against those banks who refuse to accept spoiled/torn currencies from the public?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India has authorised all branches of public sector banks as also certain selected private sector banks to accept and exchange all types of soiled/mutilated notes including notes of Rs. 1, 2, 5 and 10 denominations from their customers and the public. These are payable under RBI (Note Refund) Rules.

(b) Whenever any complaint or a reference regarding refusal to accept soiled/mutilated notes by any bank is received, the matter is promptly looked into by RBI and

taken up with the Head Office or Controlling Office of the concerned bank for immediate action.

25.6  
**Import of Gold and Gems**

1615. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of gold and gems imported during the last three years with dollar/rupee value; and

(b) the amount of gems and jewellery exported during the same period with dollar/rupee value?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The amount of gold imported during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98:

| Year    | Qty. (in tonnes) | Value (Rs. in crores) |
|---------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1995-96 | 245.22           | 12231                 |
| 1996-97 | 338.191          | 17146                 |
| 1997-98 | 635.786          | 27633                 |

Value of gems (Pearls, Precious and Semi-precious stones) imported during the last three years:

| Year    | Value (Rs. in crores) |
|---------|-----------------------|
| 1995-96 | 7044.67               |
| 1996-97 | 10383.60              |
| 1997-98 | 11680.38              |

(b) The amount of gems and jewellery exported during the last three years:

| Year    | Value (Rs. in crores) |
|---------|-----------------------|
| 1995-96 | 17644.22              |
| 1996-97 | 16872.10              |
| 1997-98 | 19013.55              |