

1987-88 25,379 tonnes
 1988-89 78,753 tonnes
 1989-90 (Provisional) 1,35,018 tonnes

The metal is marketed as per the marketing policy of the Company, as determined by the Board of Directors from time to time.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. NALCO has proposed expansion of their capacities as given below:—

- (i) Bauxite Mine from 2.4 million tonnes to 3.6 million tonnes per annum;
- (ii) Alumina Refinery from 8 lakh tonnes to 10 lakh tonnes per annum;
- (iii) Smelter Plant from 2.18 lakh tonnes to 3.33 lakh tonnes per annum.
- (iv) Power Plant from 600 MW to 960 MW, by adding three more units of 120 MW each. Of these three, investment decision for one of the units has already been taken.

The estimated cost of the NALCO's expansion proposal is Rs. 1240.5 crores. The Government of India has approved the preparation of a Detailed Project Report for the said expansion at a cost of Rs. 3.4 crores.

[*Translation*]

Tea Prices

5766. SHRI PACHERWAL:
 SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage increase in the tea

prices during the last six months;

(b) the reason for sudden rise in tea prices and steps taken by Government to reduce it;

(c) whether the tea companies have earned higher profit this year as compared to previous years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to impose a levy on tea companies?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) The percentage increase/decrease in the price of tea at Indian auctions for the last six months is as follows:—

<i>Month</i>	<i>%increase (+) decrease (-)</i>
<i>over previous months</i>	
October, 1989	—
November, 1989	(-) 2.17
December, 1989	(-) 6.20
January, 1990	(+) 12.16
February, 1990	(+) 3.27
March, 1990	(-) 7.28

(b) The reasons for the increase in tea prices during mid 1989 are attributed to lower production of tea during 1989 as compared to 1988. The fall in production was mainly on account of unfavourable weather conditions, coupled with imbalance in supply-demand equation in the global tea situation.

The steps taken by Government to check

the price of tea include:

- (i) from the last week of September, 1989 sale of CTC varieties of tea at alternate public auctions have been restricted to domestic buyers.
- (ii) No withdrawal is permitted from the auction for domestic sale, thus enabling an increase in the availability of CTC teas to the domestic buyer.
- (iii) the producers have been supplying economy packs at a price of Rs. 40/- plus local taxes, through specified retail outlets. In addition loose tea traders have also introduced "Nagrik" variety of loose tea @Rs. 45/- per kg. plus local taxes.
- (iv) A Committee under the chairmanship of Special Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce reviews the price situation from time to time.
- (v) The leading tea producing companies have drawn up Action Plans for increased production of tea during 1990.

(c) and (d). The profits earned by tea companies are related to not only increase in the per unit price realisation, but also to increase in the cost of production due to various factors, such as increase in the wage of tea plantation workers, hike in the price of inputs, increase in the levy of taxes and duties etc.

Smuggling of Gold through Saurashtra Coast

5767. SHRI RAM PRASAD
CHAUDHARY:
SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any case of large scale smuggling of gold at Saurashtra Coast has been detected recently;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to check such cases of smuggling; and

(c) whether there is any plan for further strengthening the National Cost Guard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Yes, Sir. On 14th March, 1990, the Customs authorities seized 1296 foreign marked gold biscuits weighing 151 Kgs. worth approximately Rs. 5.12 crores from a truck at Bharuch. Investigations revealed that the gold had been clandestinely landed on the coast of Mangrol in Saurashtra.

(b) the anti-smuggling agencies remain vigilant against smuggling activities including those on the Saurashtra Coast. Close co-ordination is being maintained between all the agencies including the Coast Guard which are charged with the responsibility of detecting and preventing smuggling.

(c) A Five Year Development Plan for the period 1990-1995 for further strengthening the Coast Guard is under the scrutiny of Ministry of Defence.

[English]

Heroin Trafficking

5768. DR. DAULATRAO SONUJI
AHER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the remedies United Nations has sought on India's stress upon the need for international trafficking of heroin, the build of which is smuggled into India from across the border with Pakistan; and.

(b) the details of International co-operation