

(c) and (d) Yes, a study has been made to ascertain the demand for ginger products & their various uses and applications. The study shows that such products are well received by the consumers and there is a large potential demand for them, both in the country and abroad.

(e) Yes, Sir. The Spices Board has already called for offers from interested entrepreneurs for transfer of technology for commercial production.

#### **Purchase of Almonds from USA and Afghanistan**

\*441. SHRI CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount involved in the import of dry-fruits from different countries in the last three years, year-wise and country-wise; and

(b) the quantity and amount involved in the purchase of almonds directly from USA and Afghanistan and import of American almonds from other east and West Asian Countries during the preceding three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) Statements I and II showing import of Almonds and dry fruits (excluding cashewnuts and including Almonds), country-wise for the years 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 are attached.

#### **STATEMENT I**

*Import of Almonds country-wise during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88*

Sl. No.	Country	(Qty. in Tonnes) (Value Rs. Lakhs)					
		1985 86		1986-87		1987-88	
		Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Afghanistan	1214	179.33	2615	337.37	2417	315.70
2.	Australia	..	..	49	4.56	66	7.46
3.	Iran	432	41.95	956	90.02	984	86.57
4.	Iraq	..	..	..	..	26	2.20
5.	Pakistan	205	22.51	74	9.78	678	70.15
6.	Singapore	..	..	1	0.14	7	2.36
7.	United Arab Emirates	..	..	8	0.70	20	1.64
8.	U.S.A.	3164	737.55	1871	463.93	2028	595.90
9.	Other Countries	4	0.54	1	0.28	..	..
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5019</b>	<b>981.88</b>	<b>5575</b>	<b>906.78</b>	<b>6226</b>	<b>1081.98</b>

*Source: Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India Vol. II (Imports) Published by Dte. General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta.*

## STATEMENT II

*Import of Dry fruits (excluding Cashewnuts and including Almonds)  
Country-wise for 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88*

(Qty. in Tonnes)  
(Value in Rs. Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Country	1985-86		1986-87		1987-88	
		Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Afghanistan	5122	659.42	13873	1684.75	9478	1172.54
2.	Australia	1297	126.06	1420	142.58	1003	108.16
3.	Iran	9302	482.43	7663	444.75	6418	382.93
4.	Iraq	8400	564.82	82921	1299.47	46774	1393.46
5.	Pakistan	12278	611.92	12299	610.93	29046	1447.54
6.	U.S.A.	3421	773.17	2087	500.76	2114	610.60
7.	Other Countries	2765	207.75	7819	525.27	3175	209.58
TOTAL		42585	3425.57	128082	5208.51	98008	5324.81

*Source:* Monthly Statistics Foreign Trade of India Vol. II (Imports) published by Dte. General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta.

**Import of Electronics**

\*442. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations to keep electronics out of purview of the decision to impose 15 per cent cut applicable on imports for various industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. These representations are basically against the recent decision to subject all Actual Users engaged in the manufacture of electronic items to List Attestation Procedure and also the imposition of a cut of 15% on their import entitlement.

(c) In view of the present balance of payments position, it is considered not appropriate to allow imports under OGL in an unregulated manner.

[Translation]

**Gold exploration at river beds in Uttar Pradesh**

\*443. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:

SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exploration of gold reserves under the river bed areas in Himalayan Tarai region in Uttar Pradesh is still going on;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be completed;

(c) whether any information has been received in regard to the gold reserves; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?