

(b) Variations in rainfall are closely linked with changes in atmospheric circulation. Such changes take place on a global basis. In some years the atmospheric circulation is more intense, while in other years it is less intense. These changes are reflected in rainfall. Research is being carried to find out why changes take place in atmospheric circulation from year to year.

(c) To investigate the possibility of increasing the rainfall over Maharashtra, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune have conducted cloud seeding experiments in the Sirur-Baramati region of Maharashtra. The experiments have not so far revealed any conclusive results. They are being continued.

Seizure of silver by customs

*294. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale smuggling of silver

| Year | Approximate Quantity (in Kgs.) | Approximate Value (Rs. in lakhs) |
|------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1980 | 30,665 | 949 |
| 1981 (upto July) | 3,770 | 109 |

Requirement of steel vis-a-vis production

*295. SHRI RAM SWARUP RAM:

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:

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

(a) the total requirement of steel during the current financial year;

out of the country and if so, what is the Government's assessment about and quantum of silver being smuggled out per annum; and

(b) what are the details of contraband silver seized by Customs and other authorities when being smuggled out during 1980 and 1981 so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA):

(a) There is no authoritative estimate of the quantum of silver smuggled out of the country annually. However, according to reports received by Government, the international price of silver which was considerably higher than the domestic price for the metal during, 1980, has progressively decreased over the past several months, thus reducing the incentive to smuggle silver out of the country.

(b) The quantity and value of silver seized by the Customs authorities while being attempted to be smuggled out of India during 1980 and 1981 (up to July) is given below:—

(b) how much of it is expected to be produced in the country;

(c) how the balance is proposed to be met; and

(d) steps being taken to step up production further in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):

(a) About 10.5 million tonnes.

(b) About 8.9 million tonnes.