

quantity of gold and jewellery recovered from the Jaipur palace.

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:** We have replied to this question on many an occasion on the floor of the House. Up till now the total quantum of gold which we have obtained from the Jaipur palaces is 871 kg, and there are certain other jewellery also and the valuation is still in the process. Up till now whatever we have been able to evaluate, it is in the order of Rs. 1.84 crores and during the recent raids we got two things, one a necklace and another, an emerald whose value is approximately Rs. 2 crores.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Now, the Question Hour is over.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Memorandum from Chairman, Small Scale Industrial Association, Batala regarding 1 per cent Excise Duty**

**958. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a memorandum has been received from the Chairman, Small Scale Industrial Association, Batala (Punjab) regarding the 1 per cent Central Excise Levy on commodities not specified elsewhere;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government on this memorandum; and

(c) when a decision would be taken so as to provide relief to small scale industrialists?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):** (a) No such memorandum appears to have been received in this Ministry from the Chairman, Small Scale Industrial Association, Batala, regarding the levy of excise duty under Item 68 of the Central Excise Tariff. However, a telegram has been received

from the said Association as also a joint memorandum addressed by 27 Associations of Punjab, the Small Scale Industrial Associations, Batala, being one of them, regarding levy under Item 68 of the Tariff. Neither of the above two representations is, however, addressed by the Chairman of the said Association.

(b) and (c). The Government has carefully considered the requests of the Association, but consider that there is not sufficient justification to liberalize the exemption beyond what has already been announced in Parliament.

#### **Branches of Nationalised Banks in Orissa**

**\*959. SHRI ARJUN SETHI:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks operating in Orissa at present;

(b) the total investments made by these banks in Orissa during the financial years 1972-73, 1973-74 and 1974-75, and

(c) the total amount of money advanced by them as loans for agricultural and industrial purposes, separately during the above period?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM):** (a) to (c). As at the end of December, 1974, there were 291 branches of commercial banks in Orissa. Of these 275 belonged to public sector banks, including the fourteen nationalised banks.

Available information regarding flow of bank credit in Orissa as at the end of December, 1972, and December, 1973 is set out in the Statement.

Besides bank credit as such, banks also invest funds in the securities of the State Government and in the