

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE :**  
(SHRI H. M. PATEL) : (a) and (b). A number of associations of goldsmiths have represented against the existing scheme of gold auctions conducted by the Reserve Bank of India and they have placed various demands before the Government. Their main demand is for direct sale of gold to them at fixed price.

The different steps taken by the Government in meeting the demand of the goldsmiths are as follows :—

(i) Gold Control Administrator by an Order dated 2-6-78, has banned the inter-dealer transactions in Reserve Bank of India gold among the dealers. Dealers who purchase the gold in Reserve Bank of India auctions, can sell such gold only to goldsmiths under 100 grammes at a time or themselves convert such gold into ornaments for sale.

(ii) Certified goldsmiths not exceeding five in number are permitted to submit joint bids in the Reserve Bank of India auctions.

(iii) Co-operative society of goldsmiths holding valid licence to deal in gold is also eligible to bid in the Reserve Bank of India auctions.

(iv) A scheme for the sale of gold at a fixed price to goldsmiths at selected centres in the country, in between the Reserve Bank of India auctions, is under the consideration of the Government.

### सोने की बिक्री और स्वर्ण आभूषणों का निर्यात

\*99. श्री श्रीम प्रकाश श्यामी : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने को कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार द्वारा सोने की बिक्री और स्वर्ण आभूषण निर्यात करने की नीति देश में किस सीमा तक सफल रही है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि सोने की बिक्री की नीति के परिणामस्वरूप स्वर्णकारों में असन्तोष व्याप्त है और उन्होंने 14 जून, 1978 को रिजर्व बैंक के सामने प्रदर्शन भी किया था ;

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो क्या स्वर्णकारों की भावनाओं को देखते हुए सरकार का विचार कर्तव्य-नीति में परिवर्तन करने का है ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या परिवर्तन करने का विचार है ; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE**  
(SHRI H. M. PATEL) : (a) Sale of gold by the Government has been conceived of as an economic measure to supplement the preventive measures to tackle the evil of smuggling of gold into the country. The sales have succeeded in discouraging smuggling of gold. The gold prices in India have also shown some tendency to fall since the commencement of the gold sale operations in spite of the rising trend in international prices.

The present scheme of sale of gold is not directly linked with the scheme of export of gold jewellery from the country. A separate scheme for duty free importation of gold or for sale of gold to exporters at international prices, is separately under the consideration of the Government for the purpose of encouragement of export of gold jewellery from India.

(b) to (d). A number of associations of goldsmiths have represented against the existing scheme of sale of gold by the Reserve Bank of India and they have submitted various demands. It is a fact that they demonstrated before Reserve Bank of India on 14th June, 1978 and presented a memorandum to the Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India. Their main demand is for direct sale of gold to them at fixed price.

The different steps taken by the Government in meeting the demand of the goldsmiths are as follows :—

(i) Gold Control Administrator by an Order dated 2-6-1978, has banned the inter-dealer transactions in Reserve Bank of India gold among the dealers. Dealers who purchase the gold in Reserve Bank of India auctions can sell such gold only to goldsmiths upto 100 grammes at a time or themselves convert such gold into ornaments for sale.

(ii) Certified goldsmiths not exceeding five in number are permitted to submit joint bids in the R.B.I. auctions.

(iii) Co-operative Society of goldsmiths holding valid licence to deal in gold is also eligible to bid in the R.B.I. auctions.

(iv) A scheme for the sale of gold at a fixed price to goldsmiths at selected centres in the country, in between the R.B.I. auctions, is under the consideration of the Government.

(e) In view of the reply given above, the question does not arise.

श्री अनन्त दवे : प्रश्न महोदय, मैं आपके द्वारा माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि कितनी कोमोपरेटिव सोसायटीज ने टेन्डर भरे थे, कितनी कोमोपरेटिव सोसायटीज के टेन्डर मंजूर हुए और कितना गोल्ड उनको बेचा गया ?

AN HON. MEMBER : Perhaps the hon. Minister is not prepared.

SHRI H. M. PATEL : It is a big question. I have to find out the names of the co-operative societies. In the fourth auctions six bids were accepted for a total quantity of 4.9 kgs. In the fifth auctions 93 companies....

MR. SPEAKER : He wants to know about co-operatives.

SHRI H. M. PATEL : No co-operative of goldsmiths has participated in the gold auctions so far, as per information.

श्री अनन्त दवे : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न का जो भाग "डी" है उसमें लिखा है :

"the names of person/company who purchased the largest quantity of this gold"

लेकिन माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो जवाब दिया है उसमें उन्होंने यह लिस्ट फॉर्म नहीं की है। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि यह लिस्ट सभा पटल पर रखा जायेगा।

SHRI H. M. PATEL : I think it would be a long list. If he wants, I can certainly lay it on the Table of the House. What he wanted was the name of the firm or dealer who has purchased the largest quantity. I will certainly do it.....  
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please see part (d) of question No. 93. It says :

"Name of person/company who purchased the largest quantity of this gold"

That answer should have been given.

श्री अनन्त दवे : हमें एम्बोरेस दिया जाय कि इसकी सभा पटल पर रखा जायेगा।

SHRI H. M. PATEL : I will lay on the Table of the House the names of the successful bidders.

MR. SPEAKER : Who purchased the largest quantity ? It is only one name.

SHRI H. M. PATEL : I am sorry, I have failed in giving this information. I may say that the names of the successful bidders are pasted in the notice board of the Reserve Bank of India. I am sorry, I have not got the information here. I am sorry. I will get that information...  
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will direct him to lay the name of the party on the Table of the House on Monday. He says he has committed a mistake.

SHRI HITENDRA DESAI : Why not hold it over ?

MR. SPEAKER : There are three questions.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAI NAIDU : May I know whether Government is going to sell gold hereafter also ?

SHRI H. M. PATEL : Yes, we intend to sell gold.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : As you know, the policy of the sale of gold has turned out to be a complete failure, and there has been serious criticism at the handling of the scheme. There were two objectives in introducing the gold sale system. One is to check gold smuggling into the country and the other is to stop the trend of investment in gold. Government has completely failed in checking the price. The price remains the same. So, the question is whether smuggling of gold into the country has been checked. It has not been checked.

MR. SPEAKER : If you give your own answers, there is no need to answer your question.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : So, may I know from the hon. Minister whether Government is thinking of importing gold into the country for conversion into gold ornaments and exporting it ?

SHRI H. M. PATEL : The last question is whether Government is considering importing of gold in order to convert it into jewellery and export it. That is definitely going to be done, and an announcement will be made very, very shortly.

So far as the first point is concerned, I am afraid I cannot agree that this gold sale

policy has failed. It is because the hon. Member thinks that the gold sale policy was brought in with a view to reducing prices. That was not the case. It was with a view to supplement the preventive measures against smuggling, to see that smuggling was avoided. In the attainment of that objective, it is our feeling that success is being achieved.

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :** There are about 15,000 licenced gold dealers and about 8 lakhs of goldsmiths. They agitated and observed hartal also. About 4,000 goldsmiths presented a memorandum to the Minister or his department. Their demand is that to enable the self-employment of goldsmiths numbering about 8 lakhs and the common man to get gold at proper prices, Government should set up a corporation or an independent body to deal with the sale of gold. May I know whether Government is going to set up such a corporation or independent body?

**SHRI H. M. PATEL :** As I have already explained in my reply, the scheme for selling gold directly at certain centres to goldsmiths is under consideration and will be announced very shortly. This will be done at certain selected centres. It is certainly not going to be possible to make these arrangements at almost every place where there is a goldsmith. But it will be arranged at certain selected places. And dependent upon the success of this, we may arrange to have the sale of gold at a number of centres. But a beginning will be made with a selected few centres. How many they will be, I cannot say but relatively it will be a small number.

**श्री श्रीमत् प्रकाश स्वामी :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो सोने की नीलामी होती है, उसमें एक शर्त यह भी है कि जो लोग नीलामी के लिए आते हैं उन को जो सोने की इन्टरनेशनल प्राइस है, उस से ज्यादा सोने का मूल्य लगाना पड़ेगा और जब जो सोने का इन्टरनेशनल मूल्य है उस से ज्यादा पर सोने की बिक्री की जाएगी, तो फिर यहाँ पर जो सोने के भाव हैं, उन पर कोई प्रभाव नहीं पड़ता है और न सोने की स्मॉलिंग पर कोई प्रभाव पड़ता है। इसलिए सोने की स्मॉलिंग रोकने के लिए यहाँ पर सोने के भावों को गिराना होगा। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह पूछना चाहूँगा कि क्या वे जो उन की सोने के आकस्मन की नीति

है कि इन्टरनेशनल प्राइस से ज्यादा कीमत लगानी पड़ेगी, उसमें कोई परिवर्तन करने के लिए तैयार हैं ताकि इस देश में स्मॉलिंग समाप्त हो सके जिस से देश को बहुत हानि हो रही है ?

**SHRI H. M. PATEL :** The hon. Member has perhaps not realised that the difference between the international price and the price ruling in this country is very considerable, very large and what we are trying to do is to fix the reserve price at a level which is higher than the international price but which is lower than the price which is prevailing at a given point of time in India. This will enable us particularly to see that the price comes down. But as I said, that is not the main object. The main object is to see that the smuggling is reduced.

**श्री श्रीमत् प्रकाश स्वामी :** संतुष्ट है आप इस उत्तर से ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** Yes.

**श्री श्रीमत् प्रकाश स्वामी :** मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि आप की जो सोने की नीलामी की नीति है, उस से देश के कुछ मुट्ठी भर गोल्डस्मिथ्स को ही लाभ पहुँचा है लेकिन जो इस देश में लाखों की तादाद में गरीब सुनार हैं उन को इस नीति से कोई लाभ नहीं पहुँचा है। क्या मंत्री महोदय अपनी नीति में परिवर्तन करके सोने की बिक्री को इस ढंग से निर्धारित करेंगे कि देश के जो गरीब निर्धन सुनार हैं, उन को लाभ पहुँच सके ?

**SHRI H. M. PATEL :** The Policy of gold sale by auction has been changed and also is being continuously changed in the light of the experience gained.

**श्री श्रीमत् प्रकाश स्वामी :** इस का कोई प्रभाव नहीं हुआ है।

**SHRI H. M. PATEL :** There is certainly a great deal of change. First of all, we were selling gold to dealers alone. Then, we brought in the restriction on the dealers that they must sell this gold only to

goldsmiths or convert it into ornaments. Then we also permitted just five goldsmiths to bid jointly. We have now evolved a scheme which will be put into operation very shortly for selling available gold directly to goldsmiths at selected centres. I would like to add and explain one difficulty that Government has had to face and that is that this gold must be converted into bars of certain size and that takes a certain amount of time. Here the question of the mint's capacity is involved. Now, the minimum that we are selling is 100 grams and 500 grams. That is relatively an easier task for the mint to achieve. Once we start selling direct to the goldsmiths then the quantity that can be made available has to be in much smaller size. It has to be about 50 grams or 10 grams. This means again drawing upon the mint capacity to an extent which we have to develop. That is why a certain amount of time has been taken.

**SHRI S. R. DAMANI :** Since the presentation of Budget, the note circulation has increased by Rs. 1,400 crores in spite of the public borrowings by the Government. This has introduced the inflationary trend. In order to curb the inflationary trend, may I know whether the Government will consider to sell gold to public through their bankers at fixed price without fixing the quantity so that the inflation can be checked ?

**SHRI H. M. PATEL :** The hon. Member must know that what he is suggesting is a completely unpractical proposition. We will have to have an enormous quantity of gold in order to do what he wants. Secondly, I would like to point out to him that whatever the increase in the note circulation, there has been no inflationary trend. In fact, today, the inflation is in the negative position.

#### Checking of Disembarkation Card

\*84. **SHRI RAMDEO SINGH :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the purpose of getting the customs part of the Disembarkation Card further checked by another officer (other than the Customs Officer) ;

(b) how much extra time of the passenger is wasted due to this ; and

(c) in which other country in the world is this done ?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURU-**

**SHOTTAM KAUSHIK) :** (a) The customs part of the disembarkation card is not further checked by any officer other than Customs Officers. ■

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**श्री रामदेव सिंह :** इस काम में इतना समय बर्बाद क्यों होता है ? क्या सरकार इस काम में अन्य लोगों को लगाने के प्रश्न पर भी विचार कर रही है ?

**श्री पुरुषोत्तम कौशिक :** समय तो बहुत कम ही लगता है। जब बहुत सारे पैसेजर्स एक साथ उतरते हैं, उभी समय समय लग जाता है। जब आने वाले यात्रियों के पास इड्यूटेबल गुड्स होता है तभी समय लगता है अन्यथा सामान्य तौर पर नान टूरिस्टम ट्रेफिक पर आधा घंटा लगता है। बाकी पर दस मिनट, छः मिनट और दो मिनट लगते हैं।

**श्री रामदेव सिंह :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या मंत्री जी को मालूम है कि एक यात्री को कस्टम से मुक्त होने में कम से कम एक घंटे से चार घंटे तक लग जाते हैं ?

**श्री पुरुषोत्तम कौशिक :** यह तो मेरी जानकारी में नहीं है। मैंने अभी निवेदन किया है कि यह इस बात पर निर्भर करता है कि एक साथ कितने यात्री उतरते हैं। उसके बाद एक तो इम्प्रीेशन अधिकारी के पास जांच करने में समय लगता है, दूसरे कस्टम अधिकारी के पास समय लगता है। (अवज्ञान) अध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारी यह कोशिश हो रही है कि इसको सरल किया जाए। वैसे इसका सम्बन्ध वित्त विभाग से है। उनसे बात करके कोशिश की जा रही है कि इसमें ज्यादा समय न लगे। इसके लिए एक कॉन्सलिटेशन कमेटी भी बनी है जो इस बात को देखेगी कि इसमें कोई ज्यादा समय न लगे और कोई ऐसा तरीका इवोल्व किया जाए जिस से इस काम में कम से कम समय लगे।