

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA:

From the statement it appears that there are many other assistances given to the Industry. First, long term loans are given by Industrial Finance Corporation of India for modernisation at concessional interest rate. Second, short term loans are given by the Financial Institutions for modernisation of industry. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has taken care and will inform the House as to what extent this loan has been utilized by the different jute mills? I particularly mentioned about the jute mill in Kanpur which is under the proprietorship of South Zone Company which has been closed what steps Government has taken to see that this loan has been properly utilized? In spite of all these concessions, how these mills could be closed and are still closed and no step has been taken by the Government.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I am sorry, I am not having this information because I do not deal with production of jute. I will take up the matter with my colleagues. For the information of the hon. Member, I may tell that it is related to the Ministry of Industry. If they have not utilised the loan, why they have not done it, if certain mills are closed and if they are not taking advantage of it, why they are not doing it, I will find it out.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Why that loan has not been utilized for modernisation?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I will take up the matter with the Minister concerned.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: I brought to the attention of the Minister an article published in the fortnightly called *This Fortnight* under the heading of "jute looting again" where it has been clearly brought out that most of the big industrialists who are involved in jute including Singhanian, Birlas and others, cases have been filed against them for violation of the Foreign Exchange Rules and

for under-invoicing their export. There is one case against Singhanian who was the former Chairman of IJMA for Rs. 49.50 lakhs. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether he has considered that, and in the case of those who are involved in such a racket or against whom cases have been launched, these export subsidy and other help given by the Government to exporters will be totally discontinued.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: I shall have to go into the implication of this because whenever we announce assistance, it is for the industry. But so far as such offenders are concerned, Government will have to take serious action against them. I agree with the hon. Member. But whether it is possible for me to have that sort of a scheme, I shall have to look into it.

Gold in Private Possession

*65. **SHRI ABDUL AHAD VAKIL:** Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the approximate total value of gold in private possession in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to ban private and free marketing of gold; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) There is a total ban on the private ownership/possession of primary gold under the Gold (Control) Act. Under the Gold (Control) Act a declaration has to be filed if the total quantity of ornaments articles owned, held, possessed or controlled exceeds 2 kgs. for an individual and 4 kgs. for a family. The total quantity declared according to the above requirement of the Act as on 31-12-77 is 80,718 kgs. The value of the gold comes to Rs. 547.27 crores at the rate of Rs. 678/- per 10 gms. in December, 1977.

No statistics relating to the total value of gold in the country in private possession other than the quantity declared as per the statutory requirement is available with Government

(b) and (c). Except for private refineries of gold which are not licensed, all other dealings including manufacturing, trading in gold are allowed and regulated by a system of licensing of dealers and certification of goldsmiths and accounting control. Gold is also sold to industrial users by issue of authorisation by the Gold Control Administrator.

At present there is no proposal to change the existing system relating to carrying on business in gold as regulated under the Gold (Control) Act. A Committee under the Chairmanship of the Governor, Reserve Bank of India, has also been appointed to review the gold policy in all its aspects.

SHRI ABDUL AHAD VAKIL: Sir, the information given by the Ministry is that the total value of the gold is Rs. 547.27 crores which is in the shape of ornaments and that this gold is in private possession as declared by them. There is a craze for investing black money in the gold all over the country. Whether the Government is planning to unearth the entire information as to how much gold is in private possession; whether the Government has any idea of legislation or providing for ways and means for extracting the information as to how much gold is in private possession so that the tendency of utilizing black money in the gold is curbed.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Under the existing provisions of the Gold Control Act, a declaration has to be filed under section 16 of the Act. by any individual having gold ornaments worth more than 2 kgs and any family having gold ornaments worth more than 4 kgs. They have to file a declaration before the gold control authorities.

So, the figures which I have given relate to a particular category. There are persons who keep gold under 2 kg. prescribed limit. Declarations in their cases are not filed. It is not possible to assess that unless a provision is made that each and everybody has to file a declaration under the Gold Control Act even though it is worth Rs. 10,000, or Rs 5,000. It is not possible to find out the total quantity of gold ornaments in India.

SHRI ABDUL AHAD VAKIL: Is Government thinking of importing gold in order to regulate the prices in the country?

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Government has received certain suggestions in this behalf and those suggestions are under the consideration of the Government.

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण नायक : क्या मंत्री महोदय बतायेंगे कि जो सोने की कीमत बराबर बढ़ती जा रही है उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

श्री सतीश अग्रवाल : क्योंकि स्मगलिंग रुक गई है, सोना आ नहीं रहा है, डिमाण्ड ज्यादा है इसलिए कीमत बढ़ रही है ।

SHRI VINODBHAI B. SHETH: The Government has taken very unfortunate decision of liquidating gold in the market and after some time & some experience they will improve. My question is, as much of the black money is converted into gold, are you going to put a ceiling on the possession of gold per family or per individual in this country which is much more necessary? Crores of rupees are spent in marriages and betrothals by the big families and gold is not available to the ordinary consumers.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: The Government has appointed a high level committee to give suggestions with regard to gold sales and all that. With regard to gold sales and gold policy the Committee is meeting. After receipt of the suggestions, the Government will take necessary decision.