

detailed hydrogeological study of the area for assessing the impact of mining on the water regim of the area. This study has brought out that the mining scheme proposed by NALCO will have no impact on the water system in the area. We are taking all possible measures to see that there will be no pollution. Incidentally I may inform the House through you, Sir, that this is not toxic material, Therefore, there is no likelihood of causing pollution in the water.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : My second supplementary is this : My question arises out of the reply given by the Minister. Sir, what is the definition of 'Pollution'? Number one. And, Number two is this : If the Hon. Minister thinks that the clean water is being polluted due to the mining operation and it is not pollution and it is not health hazard, then, the question does not arise and my supplementary also does not arise. The answer also does not arise, Sir.

AN HON. MEMBER : There is no question.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, anything that cause toxicity in the air or in the water will be deemed as pollution. Pollution has this concept. But we are taking care to see that we do not choke our rivers or the Nalas with the debris or the mud or the tailing that we take out from the mining because that choking also will harm the water that the people of the area use. So, that care also we will take. We are giving entire environmental protection. We are taking special care to plant trees. Sir, it is a barren hill, more or less. But we have already planted two lakhs of trees and we will be planting more trees and see that the entire area is properly protected.

Export of Indian Jewellery

***455. SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India is famous for its gold ornaments and gold-studded ornaments;

(b) whether Government have identified the countries which are good paying markets for export of Indian jewellery;

(c) if so, the details of countries to which Indian jewellery is exported; and

(d) the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Largely to UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, UK and USA.

(d) Year	Value (Rs. in crores)
1983-84	83.38
1984-85	85.75

SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that India is facing stiff competition from other countries in the field of exporting of gold ornaments. If so, what are the steps taken to meet this challenge?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, we have recently taken a number of steps to increase our export of gold jewellery. In the beginning we did have some problem because, as the Hon. Members know, it is controlled by the Gold Control Act. Now we have come out with various types of schemes. Under the new scheme, in respect of gold jewellery where the gold content manufactured is only 10 per cent value, we allow the export of gold jewellery without any restriction, and then sale of gold jewellery is permitted in exhibitions organised abroad by HSEC. For those who are participating in the

exhibitions organised by the HSEC which is a public sector undertaking, the sale of gold jewellery is also allowed. And then we have also organised a scheme where the gold jewellery against gold supplied by the foreign buyer is also allowed. Like that there are a few other schemes and of late, we have also decided to set up jewellery complexes in Jaipur, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and New Delhi.

SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO : The Indian artisans are known the world over for their craftsmanship, but they are very poor. Is Government taking steps to improve their lot so that they can improve their skill ?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I think gold jewellery is certainly in the small scale sector and a lot of people are employed in this industry and the efforts that we are making and the steps we have taken to promote gold jewellery export will certainly help those artisans.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.G. SWELL : I would like to know, Sir, whether Indian-cut diamonds constitute a most important export of jewellery abroad and is a good market.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Mostly to Burma, I think.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : No, no, Europe—U.S.A.

I would like to know whether the Minister has included in his answer the export of diamonds, and if so how much of diamonds was exported last year, whether the raid has affected this trade and what is the earning from diamonds last year and this year.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, the figure which I have furnished does not include the export figure of diamonds. In fact, diamond is our largest single jewellery item where we earned foreign exchange. In 1983-84 our export of

diamond was Rs. 1,188.89 crores and in 1984-85, it was Rs. 1,172.10 crores.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.G. SWELL : He has not answered my question—whether the raids have affected the trade, whether the export of diamond has fallen. That my question, Sir.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, there has been a slight fall, of course, compared to 1983-1984 and 1985. But it is quite a marginal one.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Has it come to the notice of the Government that large scale smuggling of these ornaments is going on from our country and if so, what steps have been taken to check it?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I think it is the duty of the Finance Ministry to answer this question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : He only deals with exports, Sir, not in smuggling.

Declaration of Agardanda in Maharashtra as a Customs Port for Ship-Breaking

*456. **SHRI S.G. GHOLAP :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra have requested for declaration of Agardanda as the customs port for ship-breaking;

(b) whether Government are aware that ship-breaking work is held up for declaration of the port as a customs port;

(c) if so, the reasons why the matter is being delayed; and

(d) when Agardanda is likely to be declared as the customs port for ship-breaking?