

(a) whether it is a fact that the US administration has requested the Indian Government to plug the leak in their opium export to US for medical needs;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard, including the steps being taken by Government to check the same; and

(c) what was the quantity of opiate raw material exported to US during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The quantity of opium exported to USA during the last 3 financial years is as follows:—

Year	Quantity of opium exported
1988-89	204.75 M.Ts.
1989-90	287.20 M.Ts.
1990-91	440.00 M.Ts.

W.B. Praises India's economic policies

853. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAND-
RAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the World Bank Vice-President, Mr. Lawrence Summan's statement, as reported in the Hindustan Times of the 14th January 1992, wherein he singled out India amongst the countries for praise for the "bold" economic reforms, which according to him, could be a miracle story of the nineties; and

(f) if so, what were the specific instances made out by him about the results of the reforms, that were already visible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The specific instances made out by him relate to the restoration of credit worthiness and increased foreign exchange reserves.

Seizure of smuggled gold at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi

854. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAND-
RAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggled gold weighing 58.3 kg. costing over Rs. 2.8 crores was seized by DRI officials at Indira Gandhi International Airport Cargo complex on January 25/26, 1992 and was found concealed in household goods imported by an unsuspecting diplomat of a friendly country.

(b) if so, what are the findings of the investigations, if any made into this one of the largest over hauls of smuggled gold;

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) the total amount of gold seized by DRI, Customs or other security and enforcement authorities during January, 1992.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) 500 pieces of gold bearing markings indicating their foreign origin collectively weighing 58,325 kgs. and valued at Rs. 2.81 crores approximately were seized by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence on 25/01/1992 from a consignment which had arrived at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi in the name of a foreign embassy official. The gold had been concealed in a washing machine and a cooking range imported alongwith other household goods.

Investigations have revealed that the foreign embassy official was not involved. Two other persons, namely, Rajkumar Gupta and Trilochan Singh, both of New Delhi, who were found to be involved have been arrested on 25/01/1992 and have also been detained under the provisions of Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 with effect from 13/02/1992.