

(ग) दिसम्बर, 1989 के महीने में अभी तक कुल कितना तस्करी का सोना पकड़ा गया है ?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री. मधु बंडवले) :

(क) और (ख) चूंकि तस्करी चोरी-छिपे किए जाने वाला एक घन्टा है, इसलिए यह अनुमान लगा पाना संभव नहीं है कि देश तस्करी द्वारा लाए गए सोने की मात्रा में वृद्धि हुई है अथवा कमी हुई है। सोना तस्करी-द्वारा देश में लाएं जाने के लिए परम्परागत रूप से आकर्षण की वस्तु रही है तथा इसके कारण नीचे दिए गए हैं :-

1. सामाजिक रीति-रिवाजों के कारण देश में इसकी अधिक मांग;

2. निश्चिन्ता के लिए तथा मुद्रा स्फीति के बचाव के प्रति नुस्त संकय के प्रयोजनार्थ हाकी मांग।

3. देश में इनका नेमण्य उत्पादन एवं आपूर्ति;

4. अन्तरराष्ट्रीय बाजारों में इसके कम मूल्यों तथा अन्तर्देशीय बाजारों में इसके उच्च मूल्यों के बीच भारी फर्क होने के कारण जासकसिता।

तदुपरा, सीमा शुल्क अधिकारियों द्वारा विगत तान वर्षों के दौरान पकड़े गए सोने की मात्रा एवं इसका मूल्य नीचे सारणी में दिया गया है :-

वर्ष	पकड़े गए सोने की मात्रा (किलोग्राम में)	पकड़े गए सोने का मूल्य (करोड़ रुपयों में)
1987	2255	65.78
1988	6094	200.53
1989* (21-12-1989 तक)	8035	253.79

*पकड़े अनन्तिम हैं।

पकड़े गए निषिद्ध सोने की मात्रा पूरा इसके मूल्य में जो वृद्धि हुई है, उससे आवश्यक रूप से यह संकेत नहीं मिलता कि तस्करी सम्बन्धी गतिविधियों में वृद्धि हुई है परन्तु ऐसा तेज किए गए तस्करी-रोधी उपायों के कारण से हो सकता है।

(ग) संपूर्ण देश में दिसम्बर, 1989 के महीने के दौरान (21-12-1989) तक 143.796 किलोग्राम निषिद्ध सोना पकड़ा गया है।

Procurement of Iron Ore by MMTC from Orissa

358. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHOO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target set by MMTC during 1988-89 and 1989-90 for the procurement of iron ore from different mines in Orissa;

(b) the actual achievement of MMTC in this regard by the end of November, 1989; and

(c) the details of steps taken by MMTC to increase the procurement of iron ore from different sectors in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) No separate target is fixed for procurement of iron ore from mines in Orissa. The target fixed for procurement of iron ore from mines in Orissa and Bihar during 1988-89 and 1989-90 and the procurement of iron ore there against are given below:

(Qty. in lakh tonnes)

Year	Target fixed	Procurement		
		Bihar	Orissa	Total
1988-89	11.30	0.89	10.36	11.25
1989-90 (upto Nov.)	24.00	1.02	8.40	9.42

(c) Steps taken to increase the procurement of iron ore from different sectors in Orissa include grant of production incentive to the mineowners to increase supplies and preparation of project report for development of Paradip Port to receive larger vessels.

Proposal to set up a Steel Plant in Orissa

359. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a steel plant in Orissa;

(b) if so, the site selected for the location of the second steel plant;

(c) whether that second steel plant is proposed to be set up during the 8th Plan Period; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for setting up a new steel plant near Daitari in Orissa.

(c) and (d) The proposal is for starting work on this project during the 8th Plan. This would depend on the resource position which can only be known when the 8th Plan is finalised.

Acceptance of Telephone and Electricity Bills by Commercial Banks

360. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to direct all the commercial banks operating in the cities to accept telephone and electricity bills;

(b) if so, when such directives are likely to be issued;

(c) what are the reasons for which the nationalised commercial banks are not accepting telephone and electricity bills at present; and

(d) what steps are being taken to implement the above proposal so that the customers are not put to any inconvenience?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) to (d) Acceptance of Electricity and Telephone bills is not primarily connected with Banking operation. The individual banks enter into an arrangement with the concerned public bodies and offer such services on a selective basis, on the basis of their commercial judgement and business considerations. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to issue any directives to the banks in this regard. However the banks have been advised by RBI to explore the feasibility of extending such personalised services in a larger measure at certain selected branches.

External Debt and Foreign Exchange Reserves

361. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total outstanding external debt of the country as on 30th November, 1989;

(b) the foreign exchange reserves of the country at the end of November, 1989;

(c) the amount held in the accounts of non-resident Indians; and

(d) whether Government consider the situation precarious and if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) Final figures of external debt outstanding are available till March 31, 1989. The total External Debt of the country as on that date was Rs. 68831 crores.

(b) the foreign exchange reserves of the country as at the end of November 1989 were Rs. 5045 crores.

(c) The cumulative deposits by the Non-Resident Indians as at the end of March 1989 were Rs. 14154 crores.

(d) The external debt position of the country at the moment is within manageable limits. The level of country's external debt and likely burden of debt servicing are being constantly kept in view to ensure that they remain within prudent limits. Government have taken a number of steps to boost export and increase invisible earnings, contain imports, improve