

has risen during the last few weeks upto Rs. 2100/- per 10 grams. This is mainly due to heavy seizures of smuggled gold, soaring prices of the dollar and seasonal spurt in internal demand for gold. There are no official transactions in bearer bonds.

Decline in India's Share in World Trade

342. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while India's share in world export has declined from 2 per cent in 1950's to 1.2 per cent in 1960's and to 0.5 per cent in recent years, the share of some countries like South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore have registered an appreciable increase during the said period;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this sharp decline in the export trade; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to improve India's share in world trade?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) India's share in world exports was about 2 per cent in 1950, 1.04 per cent in 1960, 0.65 per cent in 1970, and about 0.5 per cent in 1983. It is correct that the share of South Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore in world exports has gone up since 1960. Data for Taiwan are not available.

(b) During the 1950's and the 1960's much of the growth in world trade was in the sphere of non-traditional manufactures, while India's exports were concentrated in primary commodities and traditional manufactures, world trade in which increased relatively slowly. During the 1970's there was a sharp increase in the value of world trade in crude

oil and petroleum products, on account of substantial price increases, which increased the share of oil-exporting countries in world trade. Hence, there was a decline in India's share of world exports.

(c) Import and export policy measures are being continuously evolved for increasing India's exports. These include measures for increasing and diversifying the production, making our exports more competitive, finding new markets for our products and processing commodities for higher value realisation. Different instruments of policy available to government are being utilised for this purpose and adjusted when necessary.

Import of Newsprint by S.T.C.

343. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) what profits the State Trading Corporation makes on newsprint that it imports for the newspaper industry;

(b) what is the break-up of the cost the State Trading Corporation incurs and the price at which it sells the newsprint to the newspaper industry;

(c) whether Government propose to consider to permit the individual units of the actual users to import their own requirements of newsprint; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) As per the pricing formula approved by the Government, STC is allowed service charges at 1 per cent of CTF cost. Service charges include profits and overheads.