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 poliZcy 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 CIF cost. Service charges include profits and overheads.

(b) Const is ascertained in the following heads:

For high seas sales

—Weighted average CIF cost

—Bank charges

—Voyage interest

For ex-godown sales

—Weighted average CIF cost

—Bank charges

—Voyage interest

—Clearing, handling and transportation charges

—Port charges

—Stevedoring charges

—Custom duty

—Godown insurance

—Godown rent

—Interest on godown stocks.

Selling price is fixed on a quarterly basis in the beginning of the quarter taking into account estimated cost under the above heads plus service charge at 1 per cent of CIF Cost and variations between estimate and actuals for the previous quarter. Prices are fixed separately for high seas sales, ex-jetty and ex-godown and also for each category of a actual user *viz.*, big, medium and small.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In the larger interests of the newspaper industry, specially the small and medium categories of newspapers, the import of newsprint should continue to be canalised through the State Trading Corporation due to the following reasons:—

(i) To maintain sustained supply at a stable price.

(ii) To take the advantages of long-term contracts.

(iii) Inability of Small and Medium newspapers to obtain supplies direct from foreign suppliers.

(iv) Decanalisation can also lead to problems of storage|maintaining buffer stock.

Overdrawal of accounts from the R.B.I. by various states

344. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Wil the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) What are the names of States which have overdrawn their accounts with the Reserve Bank of India together with the maximum amount overdrawn by each of them so far during the curent financial year;

(b) what are the norms followed by the Reserve Bank of India for disallowing overdrafts and whether these are being strictly observed; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to discourage States from constantly resorting to overdrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) A statement indicating the overdrafts of States as on 13.3.1985 and the maximum amount overdrawn by each of them during the current financial year is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) The Reserve Bank of India has been advised to stop payments of those States which exceed the overdraft levels reached by them on 28-1-1985 for seven continuous working days. This is being followed strictly by the R.B.I.

Statement

Maximum overdrafts drawn in the current financial year as also the overdraft position as on 13-3-1985 (the latest date for which the information is available)

(Rs. crores)

State	Overdraft position as on 13-3-85	Maximum overdraft
1. Andhra Pradesh	187.78	248.06
2. Assam	51.35	63.33
3. Bihar	..	113.92
4. Gujarat	63.78	87.21
5. Haryana	75.99	83.26