

Category	1	2	Form	Periodicity
1. Public religious institution			GS 1	Monthly
2. Licensed refiner			GS 16	quarterly
3. Licensed dealer			GS 17	quarterly

The Gold (Control) Act is in force since September, 1968. As per the latest available data regarding total number of licensed dealers, refineries and religious institutions in the country, the total number of returns to be filed in a year would come to 73,540. Considering the large number of returns filed since 1968, the time and labour involved in collecting the information will be disproportionately high. However, if the Hon'ble Member desires to have the information in respect of particular return(s), the same will be collected and furnished.

(b) and (c) The objectives of the Gold Control Act, 1968, broadly are:—

(i) curbing the general demand for gold from the public with a view to reduce it progressively;

(ii) to serve as an economic measure to supplement other preventive measures; to make (circulation of smuggled gold difficult and its detection easier by extending the control over gold beyond the stage of import.

The objectives for which the Gold (Control) Act was brought into effect are still relevant and these are being served by the existing provisions of the Act. At present there is no proposal to scrap the Gold (Control) Act.

Involvement of Punjab National Bank in M/s. Esal Commodities of U.K.

174. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total involvement of Punjab National Bank in M/s. Esal Commodities of U.K.;

(b) what are the names of other banks, if any, involved in it and to what extent;

(c) what are the basis on which these banks advanced loans to M/s. Esal Commodities;

(d) what are the likely losses that are to be incurred by these banks on M/s. Esal Commodities; and

(e) what preventive steps Government propose to take so that such incidents do not occur in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (e) The Group of ESALS had received substantial financial assistance from three Indian banks, namely Punjab National Bank, Central Bank of India and Union Bank of India as well as from four foreign banks in London for their business. The main company for this Group, ESALS (Commodities) Ltd., was engaged in commodity trading, exporting mostly to Nigeria and Sudan. According to assessment made and furnished to the Reserve Bank of India by the three banks, a major portion of their advances to the Group is covered by Bill receivable claims/securities/guarantees. The Reserve Bank of India has reported that M/s. ESAL (Commodities) Ltd., has been ordered to be wound up by the U.K. Court.

Soon after the irregularities in the accounts involving foreign branches of Indian banks came to notice, the Reserve Bank of India were advised to review the existing arrangements relating to supervision of foreign branches by the Chairmen and Managing Directors and their Head Offices so that the inadequacies, if any, could be rectified and to work out a system which would prevent bank officers exercising powers in excess of delegated authority. Suitable steps have already been initiated in this direction.

In accordance with Section 13 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and

the customs and usages prevalent among bankers, information relating to the individual constituents of the banks cannot be disclosed.

Revenue from opium plantation

175. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

* What is the amount of revenue Government earn from opium cultivation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): The cultivation of opium in India is mainly export-oriented. Some quantity of opium is also consumed within the country, mostly for the production of opium alkaloids in the Government factories. The earnings of the Government Opium and Alkaloid Works (at Ghazipur and Neemuch) by way of sales, including exports, during the years 1981-82 to 1983-84 were as follows:—

(Rs. in crores)

		Opium Factories, Alkaloid Works.
1981-82	21.78	3.63
1982-83	27.84	4.37
1983-84	22.78	4.46
(Provisional).		

कन्द्रीय प्रत्यक्ष कर बोर्ड द्वारा व्यापारिक धरानों को करों में दी गई छूट

176. श्री हुक्मदेव नारायण यादव : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अगस्त से दिसम्बर, 1984 तक की अवधि के दौरान कन्द्रीय प्रत्यक्ष कर बोर्ड ने विभिन्न मदों के अन्तर्गत कई व्यापारिक धरानों को करों में छूट दी थी ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन व्यापारिक धरानों के नाम और पते क्या हैं और उनको दी गई छूट में अन्तर्निहित धनराशि का व्यौरा क्या है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जनार्दन पुजारी) : (क) कोई भी कर-निर्धारित आयकर अधिनियम, 1961 में निहित उपबन्धों के अनुसार उपलब्ध छूट, कटौतियां पाने का हकदार है बशर्ते कि उनमें अपेक्षित शर्तें पूरी होती हों। आयकर अधिनियम के उपबन्धों की समीक्षा सतत होती रहती है और ऐसे संशोधनों को संगत वित्त वर्ष के वित्त अधिनियम तथा संसद द्वारा अधिनियमित किसी अन्य संशोधनकारी अधिनियम में परिलक्षित किया जाता है। केन्द्रीय प्रत्यक्ष कर बोर्ड ने अगस्त से दिसम्बर, 1984 की अवधि में किन्हीं व्यापार धरानों को विभिन्न श्रेणियों के अन्तर्गत उपलब्ध कर रियायतें अपने आप नहीं दी।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

तस्करों की रिहाई

177. श्री हुक्मदेव नारायण यादव : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि 1984 के नवम्बर और दिसम्बर माह के दौरान कई तस्करों को रिहा कर दिया गया था और उन पर चल रहे आर्थिक अपराधों के मुकदमों में वापस ले लिए गए थे ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन सभी तस्करों के नाम और पते क्या हैं ; और

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि उनमें से कई के विरुद्ध विदेशी मुद्रा में हेरा-फेरी करने के भी आरोप चल रहे थे ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जनार्दन पुजारी) : (क) सम्भवतया माननीय सदस्य का आशय, विदेशी मुद्रा संरक्षण और तस्करी निवारण अधिनियम, 1974 के उपबन्धों के तहत नजरबंद किए गए तस्करों/विदेशी मुद्रा की जालसाजी करने वाले व्यक्तियों की रिहाई से है। जिन व्यक्तियों को विदेशी मुद्रा संरक्षण और तस्करी निवारण अधिनियम के तहत नजरबंद किया जाता है, उन्हें या तो उनकी नजरबन्दी की अवधि की समाप्ति पर रिहा किया जाता है अथवा सलाहकार बोर्डों की सलाह पर अथवा प्रतिसंहरण अदालत के आदेशों पर 1 नवम्बर