

GOLD CONTROL ORDER

*72. SHRI M. M. DHARIA : †
 SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA :
 SHRI B. K. MAHANTI :
 SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any final decision regarding rescinding the Gold Control Order;

(b) if so, what is the decision; and

(c) whether any representation from Members of Parliament has been received in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The whole issue of the Gold Control Order is under review at present.

(c) One hon. Member sent a memorandum although not in his capacity as a Member of the Parliament.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Is it a fact that several Members of Parliament, several political and social organisations and several goldsmiths have been demanding the withdrawal of the Gold Control Order because it has failed in carrying out the purpose for which it was brought into force and may we know why the Government is reluctant in withdrawing the Order?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : The Government is reviewing the matter. There is a demand for withdrawal or for modification but before Government can act in this matter it has to go into it very carefully.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : May we know since how long the Government has been examining this matter and how long it will take for the Government to take a final decision in this matter?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : At the moment the Government is actively engaged in it. We shall take a decision soon.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. M. Dharia.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Is the Government aware that nearly five lakhs of families of the poor goldsmiths have been thrown out of job, that the price of gold has gone up and that smuggling has also increased and under these circumstances will the Government expedite the matter as early as possible and take a final decision whether it should be withdrawn or not?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : All these arguments have been advanced from time to time and we have also given to the House the facts as the Government sees them regarding this problem.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : When the Gold Control Act was passed, we were told that this was meant to save foreign exchange and generally help the country's economy. After devaluation there would not be any justification for it because they are smuggling out the wealth of the country on American orders. But may I know whether the delay in this matter is due again to the pending consultations with the Americans and if not when Mr. Asoka Mehta will be again going to America to have consultations with the World Bank authorities about this matter?

(No reply.)

SHRIMATI C. AMMANNA RAJA : Is it not a fact that because of the Gold Control Order the smuggling of gold is becoming less in the country?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : That is also a point of view, Sir.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY : I would like to know whether the Government is thinking of amending the Gold Control Act or they are thinking of withdrawing the Order.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : The whole question is under consideration. What we do, we will let the House know when we take a decision.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINA : In view of the fact that the Government have assured the House that they are actively considering this, will they also assure the House that before the end of the session of the Rajya Sabha the decision of the Government will be available to us?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I cannot give a definite date. As I said we will take a decision as soon as possible.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : Will the hon. Minister say that as far as the Gold Control Order is concerned, its purpose is defeated completely? Because we know from our experience in Calcutta that although a number of goldsmiths' families have really suffered a lot because of the existence of this Gold Control Order yet the purpose of the Gold Control Order, namely, that gold should not be smuggled, that only 14 ct. gold should be used for making new ornaments, etc., is not being achieved at all in cities like Calcutta. Our experience is that if any person is going to have a wedding in his family he can have as much gold and as many gold ornaments as he likes. That is a notorious fact. The only thing that has happened due to this Gold Control Order is that the poor goldsmiths have been thrown out of employment and many goldsmiths have already committed suicide by taking nitric acid. In view of the failure of the very purpose for which the Gold Control Order was issued . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the question?

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : . . . will the hon. Minister say that actually there is no further justification for the continuance of the Gold Control Order and will the hon. Minister see to it that the Gold Control Order is immediately rescinded and not keep it as a farce?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister has already replied to that. He said that the matter was under consideration and he would expedite the decision.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : In view of the fact that the gentleman who conceived this Gold Control Order, who was responsible for this, has subsequently repented for it and has said publicly that there is absolutely no justification for the continuance of the Gold Control Order, would the Government now reconsider their views and immediately withdraw this?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think a reply has been given. They are actively at it.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Sir, Mr. Morarji Desai is making public statements to that effect.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Morarji Desai is absolutely irrelevant in this matter.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरडिया
क्या श्रीमान् यह बतलाएंगे कि गोल्ड कंट्रोल का एक मुख्य कारण यह बतलाया गया था कि सोने का तस्कर व्यापार हुआ करता है परन्तु अवमूल्यन होने के परिणामस्वरूप सोने का मूल्य हमारी मुद्रा के हिसाब से विदेशों में बढ़ गया है और इसलिये इस बात को ध्यान में रखकर क्या शासन शीघ्र ही स्वर्ण नियंत्रण विधान को समाप्त करेगा?

श्री बी० आर० भगत : यह तो कहा गया था कि गोल्ड कंट्रोल के बाद अगर यहाँ गोल्ड के लिये डिमांड कम हो जायेगी तो डिमांड कम होने के कारण बाद में स्मर्गलिंग बंद हो जायेगी। यही स्थिति अभी भी है कि सोने की मांग यहाँ कम हो जायेगी तो उसका स्मर्गलिंग रुक सकता है।

SHRI A. D. MANI : Sir, may I ask the Minister to tell the House frankly whether the hesitation of the Government to take immediate action on the representation of Members of Parliament is due to the advice tendered by the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank that a Gold Control Order is necessary in India to prevent the smuggling of gold?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : In this matter, there is no advice from the international monetary organisation.

केन्द्रीय स्वास्थ्य सेवा के कर्मचारियों के ओवर-टाइम एलाउन्स

* 73. **श्री बी० एन० मंडल :** क्या स्वास्थ्य तथा परिवार नियोजन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय स्वास्थ्य सेवा के डाक्टरों तथा उनसे अधीनस्थ कर्मचारियों