

ritories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep, where it is provided on request.

Import of Gold

411. SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to in the import of primary gold;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the estimated savings in foreign exchange due to this ban?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, to implement the Gold Jewellery Export Promotion and Replenishment Scheme operated by State Bank of India, import of gold has been substituted by sale of confiscated gold through State Bank of India to jewellery exporters.

(c) The savings on account of sale of confiscated gold through SBI for operating the Gold Jewellery Export Promotion and Replenishment Scheme are estimated to be of the order of Rs. 80 crores during the current financial year.

Closure of Establishment by Tea Companies In Assam

412. SHRI RAJAMOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some tea companies in Assam have closed down their establishments; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAM DAS PATEL): (a) and (b). According to the information available with the Tea Board, the tea estates/companies in Assam, which are lying closed are Sogra, Topia, Topea, Noanuddy and Kashikata. The tea estates lying closed in Cachar district of Assam Appin, Alambagh, Kuchila, Eraligoo, Benodini, Usharani, Salchara and Khoreel.

Production of Steel By SAIL

413. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHA RAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the target set by the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) for the Seventh Five Year Plan for steel production and the actual production in this period;

(b) whether the SAIL has been falling behind the target of annual steel production;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken to increase the production of steel by SAIL; and

(e) the target set for the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BASAVARAJ PATIL): (a) While the target set by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) for the Seventh Five Year Plan period for crude steel production was 42.638 million tonnes, the actual production was 38.033 million tonnes.

(b) and (c). The main reasons for SAIL falling short in steel production include the supply of inconsistent the poor quality of coking coal and some other raw materials,

the erratic supply of power, ageing plant and equipment, some periods of unsatisfactory industrial relations and managerial inadequacies.

(d) Among the various steps taken in this direction are the modernisation and technological upgradation of Plants, augmentation of captive power generation, import of low ash coking coal, systematic maintenance and greater technological discipline and a better work culture.

(e) The details of targets for the entire Eighth Five Year Plan are yet to be finalised though tentative targets indicated by SAIL ARE 52.284 million tonnes.

Major Rivers Facing Pollution

414. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of major rivers in the country which are now polluted;

(b) the reasons for the pollution of these rivers; and

(c) the steps taken to check pollution of these rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b). All major rivers in the country are polluted in certain stretches because of industrial and domestic sewage discharges.

(c) The steps taken include:

- (1) Effluent standards have been prescribed for major pollution units and for sewage treatment plants;

- (2) Major polluting industries and municipalities have been directed to install pollution control devices within a specified time-schedule;

- (3) Assistance is being given to clusters of Small Scale industrial units to set up common effluent treatment plants;

- (4) Fiscal incentives are provided to industries for installing pollution control devices;

- (5) Monitoring stations have been set up to monitor water quality of these rivers; and

- (6) Legal action is taken against the defaulting units

Import of Oil From Gulf countries

415. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of the impact of the increase in the prices of oil imported from the Gulf countries on the foreign exchange position; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to meet the adverse effect on the foreign exchange position?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The extent of the impact, in terms of the increase in the POL import bill, depends on the price of oil in the international markets, which have been volatile though at a far higher level than before. The present assessment of the increase in the POL import bill, for the period October, 1990 to September, 1991 is as follows:—