

Disposal of Confiscated Goods

6070. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rate of disposal of confiscated goods by the Customs authorities has declined during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the value of goods confiscated or seized during the last three years;

(d) the value of seized or confiscated goods disposed of during the last three years;

(e) the value of total stocks of confiscated goods lying in the Customs godowns as on the 31st day of March, 1985, 1984 and 1983; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to expedite disposal of confiscated goods ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) The total value of goods seized and goods confiscated during the years 1982, 1983 and 1984 is furnished below :—

Year	Value of goods seized	(Value : Rs. in crores) Value of goods confiscated
1982	66.39	27.15
1983	89.92	59.11
1984	100.55*	67.22*

*(provisional)

(d) The total value of the seized/confiscated goods disposed of during the years 1982, 1983 and 1984 is furnished below :—

Year	Total value of confiscated goods disposed of (Value : Rs. in crores)
1982	24.90
1983	41.14
1984	57.39 (provisional)

(e) The total value of the confiscated goods lying in the Customs godowns as on 31-3-1983, 31-3-1984, 31-3-1985 is furnished below :—

Period as on	Value of goods (Rs. in crores)
31-3-1984	46.14
31-3-1984	57.82
31-3-1985	61.47 (provisional)

(f) The channels of disposal of confiscated goods were widened in 1983 to expedite disposal of confiscated goods. Appropriate discounts are allowed on the sale prices fixed by Collectorates/Custom Houses to National Consumers' Co-operative Federation of India Ltd., Co-operative Societies, State Co-operative Federations, etc.

[Translation]

Handicrafts Board in Bikaner

6071. SHRI MOHAR SINGH RATHORE : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Handicrafts Board or the regional office for the development of handicrafts in Bikaner with a view to

promote and encourage handicrafts in this area;

(b) whether Bikaner is the biggest market for handicrafts; and

(c) whether there are tremendous potentials for developing carpet weaving centres, dyeing and weaving and other connected handicrafts there and what efforts have been made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, sir. However, Bikaner is generally known for Camel Handicrafts, wood carving carpet weaving and other wool products.

(c) Bikaner being a wool producing area, there is scope for developing wool based products. State Government agencies are running a carpet weaving training centre as well as a programme for woollen shawl weaving.

[English]

Adverse Effect of Rise in Prices of Steel on Small Scale Industries and Housing

6072. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of steel have been shooting up for the past five years in general and the last three years in particular;

(b) if so, the rise in each year;

(c) whether Government are aware of the adverse effect of the rise in prices on small scale industries and housing for low/middle income group; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to mitigate the hardship on this scope ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K.

NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). During the last five years steel prices have been revised on 14 different occasions by the Joint Plant Committee of the main producers. These price revisions were necessitated on account of various reasons including increases in the costs of production, excise duty, contribution to Steel Development Fund, contribution to Engineering Goods Export Assistance Fund, J. P. C. Cess and increase in equalised railway freight element on account of increase in railway freight or reclassification of items by Railways. Additional realisations to the main steel producers accrued only on 7 occasions out of these 14 when the consumer prices for steel were revised. Yearwise details regarding the increase in prices during the last 5 years are given in the Statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 1119/85]

(c) and (d). The interests of the steel consumers, including the small scale industries and house builders, and producers were kept in view while revising the prices.

Amount Collected from Duties on Tea

6073 **SHRI ANANDA PATHAK :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of money received by Government by way of Central Excise duty from tea during 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 ;

(b) the amount collected by way of export duty on tea, during 1982-83 to 1984-85 ;

(c) the amount collected by way of agricultural Income Tax on tea, during 1982-83 to 1984-85 ; and

(d) the amount collected by way of corporation tax from tea industry and the amount lying in arrear during the period from 1982-83 to 1984-85 ;