

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to revive these units,

(d) the number of employees and workers rendered unemployed, State-wise, and

(e) the details of the compensation being provided to these workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND HOLDING ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA). (a) to (e) information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

[Translation]

#### Opium Cultivation

2602 SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No 1900 dated October 5, 1994 and state

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey regarding the genuine demand of opium and ganja in national and inter-national market,

(b) whether the Government are also aware that the farmers of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and northern parts of India have been consuming ganja at public place and Chaupals as per century old religious traditions,

(c) whether the sellers have to meet their heavy demand illegally by charging exorbitant rates from them,

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to issue licences to such private sellers,

(e) whether keeping in view the heavy demand and supply of expensive intoxicants, the Government is taking steps to make available an alternative of intoxicants and supply the agricultural products like ganja and opium legally to the farmers and workers,

(f) if so, the details thereof, and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) to (d). India's requirement of opium for export and for manufacture of opiate alkaloids for domestic use is assessed every year by the Central Government. For the year 1994-95, demand of opium is estimated to be 782 Metric Tonnes at 90°C. Possession, consumption, sale, purchase, etc. of ganja (Cannabis) can be permitted and regulated by the State Government for medical and scientific purpose under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

(e) to (g). It is the endeavour of the Government to bring about prohibition of consumption of intoxicating drugs except for medicinal purposes in accordance with Article 47 of the Constitution. As such there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to make ganja and opium available to farmers and workers.

[English]

#### Seizure of Gold

2603 SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the total quantum and approximate value of gold confiscated by the customs during 1993-94 and during the current year so far,

(b) the procedure through which the gold was sold and the amount realised therefrom,

(c) whether the Government or the Reserve Bank of India has decided to import some gold, and

(d) if so, the quantity and value thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) to (d) information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

#### Unclaimed Provident Fund

2604 MAJ GEN (RETD) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have any policy on disposal of unclaimed General Provident Fund,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) if not, whether the Government have issued instructions on this subject,

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the total amount of unclaimed General Provident Fund at the end of the financial years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) to (d). All funds accumulated in the General Provident Fund are accounted for under the Public Account in the Central Budget. The payments on account of refund of unclaimed deposits are authorised by the Accounts Officer concerned after ascertaining that the amount was originally received and credited to "Deposits" and that the claimant's identity and title to the money has been certified by the Departmental Officer who maintains the GPF account.

(e) The total amount of unclaimed Provident Funds are as under

Year	Amount of unclaimed GPF (in thousands of Rupees)
1991-92	92.87
1992-93	1,56.03
1993-94	1,85.43 (provisional)