

(b) Efforts are made through periodical checks of records and returns, surveillance of suspected units, transit checks and audit checks to ensure that those factories do not evade payment of Central Excise duty.

(c) Comparative figures of collection of Central Excise duty from above factories are given below :—

Year	Central Excise duty collected (Rs. in crores)
1984-85 (April-October)	105.16
1985-86 (April-October)	124.28
1986-87 (April-October)	131.23
1987-88 (April-October)	131.51

(d) A proposal for restructuring the whole Customs and Central Excise Department also containing measures for strengthening Anti-Evasion and Anti-Smuggling machinery is presently under consideration by the Government.

Gold Confiscated During 1986-87

1057. SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) The volume of gold confiscated during the year 1986-87; and

(b) main source of confiscation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) The volume of gold confiscated during 1986-87 was 1067.395 Kgs.

(b) The highest confiscation of gold was done by Bombay Customs.

Vegetable Oil Import

1058. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of vegetable oil imported during last three years and through which agencies, by way of gifts or commercial;

(b) the details of its distribution to each State with its price year-wise;

(c) whether the release of gifts was not done through Publish Distribution System and the State Agencies and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether gifted oil was largely released in oil producing States in order to depress local prices; and

(e) whether this has resulted in depressing production as happened earlier for gift wheat and milk imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it becomes available.

Export of Betel Leaves

1059. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the export of betel leaves to different countries ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : The export potential of betel leaves is limited. Exports are primarily being made to Middle East countries which has sizeable ethnic community which consume this item. The consumption of betel leaves being limited, no specific proposals for increasing its exports are envisaged.

Assets of Transnational Corporation Companies

1060. SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the period between 1975-76 and 1980-81 the assets of 314 mixed Transnational Corporation companies and branch offices in India have increased 1.74 times and are about rupees forty seven thousand million;

(b) if so, whether economy of India in the long run would be affected; and