

representation in accordance with the provisions of the Nationalisation Scheme suitable persons were selected and appointed on the Boards of Directors of the nationalised banks.

Appeal from All India Small Scale Straw Board Mills Association for Excise Relief

625. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All-India Small Scale Straw Board Mills Association has made an appeal to the Government to give excise relief for straw boards made by sun-dry process;

(b) is it a fact that the small Sun-Dry straw board processors are labour-based industry agrico ventures; and

(c) if so, has the Government examined their case and what relief is proposed to be given as against Mill-board manufacturer's with automatic dryers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGRAWAL): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter has been examined and the excise duty on straw board made by sun-dry process assessable under-item 17(2) of the Central Excise Tariff has been reduced to 10 per cent *ad valorem*. Board manufactured with automatic dryers continues to be charge able to duty at the rate of 15 per cent *ad valorem*, on the first 500 metric tonnes 25 per cent *ad valorem* on the next 500 metric tonnes and 30 per cent *ad valorem* on the balance.

- Export of Silver

626. SHRI PARMANAND GOVINDJIWALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state the quantity of silver exported from India from April, 1977 to January, 1978 month-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): The quantity of silver exported from India from April, 1977 to January, 1978 is as follows:—

(in M. Tons)	
April 1977	7.50
May 1977	10.80
June 1977	17.22
July 1977	45.32
August 1977	19.52
September 1977	111.90
October 1977	106.30
November 1977	73.95
December 1977	35.77
January 1978	33.15
Total	461.43

Steps to Check Smuggling in Export of Silver

627. SHRI PARMANAND GOVINDJIWALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large quantity of silver is being exported from India illegally; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and steps to check smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI