

Neither reduction in the price of gold nor pegging the price at a particular level is the intention of the Government. Gold sale has been conceived of as an economic measure in addition to preventive measures to tackle smuggling of gold into the country. Sale of gold by the Government has discouraged large-scale smuggling of gold into the country.

(c) In the last six auctions a total quantity of 7.92 tonnes of gold for a sum of Rs. 50.75 crores has been sold.

Selling South to International Tourists

848. SHRI AGHAN SINGH THAKUR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a news item published in Times of India dated the 26th June, 1978 under the caption 'Selling South to the International Tourists'; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India is aware of the potential which South India holds for tourists. It is with this in view that the Department of Tourism's promotional efforts overseas are directed towards diversifying the pattern of traffic so as to divert it to the areas where there are facilities for international tourists, including South India. The Govt. of India Tourist Offices overseas therefore give due weightage to promotion of all the major tourist centres of South India.

Price of Gold on the eve of Auctions

849. SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the market price of gold per gram on the eve of the first, second and third gold auctions by the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) the price per gram fetched in the auctions on each occasion; and

(c) the market price of gold per gram in each of the weeks following the auction ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL) : (a) The market price of gold in Bombay on 3rd, 16th and 31st May, 1978, when the first, second and third auctions were held, was Rs. 69, Rs. 70 and Rs. 66 per gram respectively.

(b) The average prices per gram fetched in the first three auctions are about Rs. 63.3, Rs. 63.5 and Rs. 63.6 respectively.

(c) The average market price of gold in the weeks following the first, second and third auctions was respectively Rs. 69.5, Rs. 69.5 and Rs. 68.4 per gram.

Proposal to amend important trade control order

850. DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to amend the Import Trade Control Order in such a way that the utilisation of the licence becomes obligatory on the part of the holder ;

(b) how far the licences issued during the past three years have been utilised by the holders; and

(c) whether Government propose to impose a penalty of 3 per cent in case of non-utilisation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Import Statistics are not maintained licence-wise.

(c) There is no such proposal.

नरदन्धी आचरेसन के लिए प्रोत्साहित करने पर प्रोत्साहन राशि के रूप में प्राप्त धनराशि पर आयकर की छद्दायगी

851. श्री सूर्यजय प्रसाद : क्व वित्त मंत्री दिल्ली नगर निगम, दिल्ली विद्युत् प्रदाय संस्थान आदि द्वारा नरदन्धी सम्बन्ध परिषद् जारी किये जाने के बारे में 30 जु 1977 के तारिकित प्रश्न सं० 268 के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करें कि :

(क) क्या श्रीमती इक्षाना सुल्तान श्रीमती के० राघारमण, श्री जगदीश टाइटल