

from (Rs. 40.15 per Kg. to Rs. 26.61 per Kg) etc. and thereby reduction in export earnings.

(iv) Reduction in exportable surpluses have been caused by various domestic factors like—

(a) Increase in domestic demand in case of iron and steel, cement, etc.

(b) Shortage of power

(c) Transport bottlenecks

(d) Congestion at ports.

(e) Industrial unrest and strikes particularly at ports.

(f) Unprecedented floods in many States like UP, Bihar, West Bengal etc.

(g) Reduced availability of imported raw cashewnuts.

(h) Difficulties faced by exporters due to certain local policies like pricing of raw cashewnuts, restriction on movements of cashewnuts and husk (coir) and heavy sales tax on exportable commodities like pepper.

(v) Acquisition of new science and technology and new capabilities have created certain difficulties in having more exports to Rupee trade countries as imports from such countries have come down.

(vi) Deliberate policy of Government to restrict/control export of certain commodities to enable sufficient domestic availability at reasonable prices and to thus reduce the social cost of exports.

Sale of Gold under Gold Jewellery Export Replenishment Scheme by S.B.I.

932. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA SHEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had authorised the State Bank of India to

sell pure gold at Rs. 580/- per ten grams to the holders of release order under the Gold Jewellery Export Replenishment Scheme which come in force on 21st August, 1978; and

(b) if so, how much gold was sold under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) Yes, Sir. This price was announced under the Department of Commerce Public Notice No. 62-ITC(PN)/78, dated the 19th August, 1978. This selling price was raised to Rs. 645/- under Public Notice No. 79-ITC(PN)/78, dated the 3rd November, 1978.

(b) No sale of gold has so far taken place under the scheme.

Setting up of Enquiry Committee to find out Areas of Corruption in Customs and Excise Department

933. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA SHEKHARA MURTHY :
SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up an enquiry committee to find out the areas and points of corruption in customs and excise department;

(b) if so, who are its members and what are the other points the committee has been asked to enquire into; and

(c) when the committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGRAWAL): (a) and (b). In the course of a meeting with senior officers on the 1st and 2nd September, 1978, the Minister of State for Finance (Excise and Customs) desired that a small group of senior officers should, as part of vigilance work, spot out the areas, points, modes and