

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री श्री ह० सी०  
जार्ज (क) 1,31,000 हेक्टर

(ख) 4 लाख गाँहें

(ग) 2,76,960 गाँहें

(घ) 12.64 करोड़ रु०

#### Rise in Prices of Gold and Silver

3644. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH  
RAO:

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH  
MALIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of gold and silver have gone very high during the last one year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to bring down the prices of gold and silver in the country and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN  
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI  
K. R. GANESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The increase in the price of gold in India during the last one year is mainly due to forces of supply and demand and increase in its price in the world free markets. The factors primarily responsible for rise in the free market price of gold are: (i) restricted supply of gold to the world free markets by producing countries, and (ii) increased demand due to uncertain international monetary situation. This has affected illegal supplies to India and thus force the price in India also to rise. The rise in the price of silver is chiefly due to higher price of the metal abroad arising out of the gap in the world production of silver and its demand for industrial use.

(c) Gold and silver not being regarded as articles of essential industrial or household consumption, changes in their prices do not have any adverse effects on general economic conditions in the country. Presently, therefore, Government do not have any measures under consideration to bring down their prices.

#### Investment of Foreign Capital on Industry and Commerce

3645. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign investment on Industry and Commerce, country-wise, made in India during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether any proper check has been kept over the inflow of foreign money in this country during the period and if so, the nature thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE  
(SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN):

(a) The outstanding foreign investment in India both from private and official sources, as at the end of March, 1969 was Rs. 1,611.3 crores, and according to quick estimates prepared by the Reserve Bank of India, it was Rs. 1,635.7 crores and Rs. 1,672.4 crores respectively as at the end of March, 1970 and March, 1971. A statement showing the country-wise break-up of the outstanding foreign investment as at the end of March, 1969 is attached. Similar break up is not yet available for later periods.

(b) Government's policy towards foreign investment has, since the mid-sixties, been highly selective, and foreign investment is now permitted usually on a minority basis and generally as a vehicle for transfer of sophisticated technology which the country is in need of.