

(b) whether Government have explored the possibility of increasing the export of 'bidi'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) The foreign exchange earned from the port of bidis and bidi tobacco during the last three years:

<i>Qty: in tonnes</i>			<i>Val: in Rs. /lakhs</i>	
<i>Export of bidis</i>			<i>Export bidi tobacco in the form of flakes</i>	
	<i>Qty.</i>	<i>Val.</i>	<i>Qty.</i>	<i>Val.</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
1987-88	268	224.31	158.0	13.27
1988-89	462	210.39	6.2	1.35
1989-90	1478	290.20	131.8	19.92

(b) In order to explore the possibility of increasing the export of tobacco products, including bidis, the Tobacco Board had organised market surveys through the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi in the Middle East and Asian Countries and also in the USA, Canada and Select West European countries. A delegation was also sponsored by the Tobacco Board to select Middle East countries. Various types of bidis are also displayed at the fairs and exhibitions held abroad for promoting export of bidis.

Duty Exemption on Imported Medicines

7468. SHRI KALPNATH SONKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have granted customs duty exemption to certain imported medicines during the year 1990-91; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b). Government have not

granted exemption from customs duty during the financial year 1990-91 upto now to any imported medicine.

Set Back to Leather Exports to West Germany

7469. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether leather export to West Germany has received a set back;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it has affected adversely the Indian leather industry; and

(d) the steps taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) to (d). No, Sir. Leather and Leather Product exports to the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) during

1989-90 (upto Feb. '90) have, according to provisional export figures, increased by 36% as compared to exports during the corresponding period of 1988-89.

FRG has imposed a ban on the import of leather and other products treated with a particular chemical, pentachlorophenol. Major tanners in India have already discontinued the use of this chemical and the Central Leather Research Institute, Madras, is arranging facilities to test for the presence of the chemical in leather. The matter has also been taken up with FRG Govt. for clearing export orders in the pipe line.

[*Translation*]

Drug Trafficking in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan

7470. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

SHRI NATHU SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases of drug trafficking have come to light in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to check the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF THE FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c). The details of seizures effected and reported to Narcotics Control Bureau during the period 1.1.1990 to 31.3.1990 in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are as under:

Name of drug	Rajasthan		Madhya Pradesh	
	No. of cases	Qty. (in kgs.)	No. of cases	Qty. (in kgs.)
1	2	3	4	5
Opium	4	11.250	11	73.175
Heroin	1	10.815	2	3.800
Hashish	2	212.020	—	—

The Government have initiated various steps to contain smuggling which, inter alia, include tightening of anti-narcotic laws and improving their enforcement, strengthening of Narcotics Control Bureau and the preventive machineries at the borders and the international ports as also in opium growing areas and improving liaison with both national and international agencies such as INTERPOL, International Narcotics Control Based, Customs Cooperation Council, Drug Enforce-

meny Administration of USA, etc.

[*English*]

Modifications in Reservation of Constituencies for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

7471. SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state: