

(b) if so, the details with reasons thereof;

(c) the quantity of gold imported during the Seventh Plan period year-wise;

(d) the estimated quantity of gold consumption and its availability in the country during the Seventh Plan; year-wise; and

(e) the steps proposed to be considered to stop the smuggling of gold into the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(e) The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country particularly at the vulnerable points of the land borders and the coastline and at the international airports and seaports has been geared up. Close co-ordination is being maintained between all the agencies concerned in the prevention and detection of smuggling including that of gold. Sophisticated equipment like X-ray machines, metal detectors etc. are being increasingly used. The Customs formations have been equipped with vessels, vehicles, fire-arms, telecommunication etc. wherever considered necessary.

#### **Payment of Indian Airlines fare in Dollars by NRIs**

5052. SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow the NRIs and foreigners to make payment in dollars against the fare of the Airlines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and to what extent the foreign exchange will be sound?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir. Foreigners and NRIs are required to pay Indian Airlines domestic fares quoted in US dollars.

(b) In case of tickets issued to Foreigners/NRIs, Indian Airlines domestic fares quoted in US dollars have become applicable w.e.f. 1st July, 1990, irrespective of the place of issuance of ticket. Payment can be made either in US dollars or any other acceptable foreign currency. It is estimated by Indian Airlines that an additional foreign exchange of about Rs. 15 crores will be earned as a result of this procedure.

#### **Export of Gold Jewellery and Silver Articles**

5053. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to boost exports of gold jewellery and silver articles; and

(b) the quantity and value of gold jewellery and silver articles exported during January to June, 1990 vis-a-vis the corresponding months in 1989?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) Gem & Jewellery is a thrust sector for exports. Government have taken a series of measures to enhance the export of gold jewellery and silver articles. These include the establishment of special complexes for export production of gold jewellery, exclusive arrangement for supply of gold by the MMTC to these special complexes, requisite input and infrastructural support and repeal of the Gold Control Act. Approval procedures for the setting up of units in this sector under the Scheme of Export Processing Zones and 100% Export Oriented Units have been streamlined.