

Import of weapons by Sports-Persons

9734. SHRI KESHARI LAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure laid down by Government for import of weapons by sports-persons;

(b) whether State Level shooters are put to great hardships as they are not allowed to import weapons from foreign countries for target practice;

(c) if so, the number of applications pending with Department of Youth Affairs and Sports for import of weapons by sports-persons; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to allow the import of weapons by State level shooters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) According to the current Import and Export Promotion Policy, applications of those sportspersons who are certified to be 'renowned shooters' by the National Rifle Association of India by virtue of being ranked within the first ten in the National Shooting Championship Competition (NSCC) held immediately preceding the proposed importation are examined by the Department and recommended to the Chief Controller of Import and Export for issue of import licence.

(b) The above mentioned Import and Export Promotion Policy provides for applications from Rifle Clubs/Association (recognised by the Central Government) or their members or the Sports Authority of India for import of sporting weapons for target practice. The State level shooters can use the weapons of their respective Rifle Clubs/Associations. Hence they should not be put to hardship.

(c) and (d). In view of (b), the question of applications of State level shooters pending with the Central Government as well as steps taken by the latter do not arise.

Sale of Jewellery Items of Nizam Hyderabad

9735. SHRI Y.S. RAJA SEKHAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether advertisements have appeared in Gulf Newspapers offering the Nizam of Hyderabad's collection of 173 jewels in sale; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The matter relating to the Nizam Jewellery is sub-judice and hence no comments are being offered.

Appointment of Legal Officers

9736. SHRI RAM SAGAR (Saidpur): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in some of the departments, legal officers have been appointed exclusively to deal/conduct departmental enquiries and to fight cases in the Central Administrative Tribunals;

(b) whether such officers are paid suitably for their services; and

(c) if so, the details thereof together with the details of criteria laid down for selection of such officers?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c). Legal officers are not appointed to deal/conduct