

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up an export processing zone in Kerala ; and

(b) if so, by what time it will be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) An Export Processing Zone is being set up at Thrikkakara near Cochin. Construction of the compound wall for the Zone is likely to be completed by the end of the current financial year for the Customs notification to issue for the Zone, in turn, to become operational.

Precautionary measures taken against subsidence, surface and underground fire in Eastern Coalfields area

668. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any precautionary measures have been taken against subsidence, surface and underground fire for the protection of the villagers and workers residing in the Eastern Coalfields area ; and

(b) the steps taken for reclamation of lands of abandoned open-cast quarries and subsided area due to mining operation in E.C.L. and how much has been spent year-wise since 1982 ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Yes, Sir. The following precautionary measures have been taken against subsidence, surface and underground fire :

- (i) Blanketting and filling up of surface pot holes.
- (ii) Avoiding dewatering of such old, abandoned, underground workings that may aggravate the problem of subsidence.
- (iii) Isolating underground fire area.

(iv) Wherever feasible carrying out open-cast mining in areas under fire.

(v) Leaving of coal pillars/partial extraction with stowing.

(vi) Sectionalising old workings with isolation stoppings.

(b) Reclamation of land of new open-cast mines is being planned.

News item captioned "Surat Excise raid was the plan leaked out"

669. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI SODE RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news report under the caption "Surat excise raid was the plan leaked out" appearing in the 'Economic Times' (New Delhi edition) of June 4, 1985 indicating that there was a deliberate leak of revenue intelligence secret plan to raid the premises of the art silk manufacturers at Surat in Gujarat ;

(b) if so, whether the premeditated assault on excise officials on May 24, 1985 indicates that there must have been a leak at the top level ;

(c) if so, whether an inquiry has been made into these aspects ; and

(d) if so, the findings of this inquiry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Circumstances do not indicate that there was any leakage of information about the raid.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.