

(e) the time by which sugar is likely to be available there at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) State-wise monthly quotas for levy sugar have been fixed on the basis of their quotas during the partial control period immediately prior to the de-control of sugar on August 16, 1978. These quotas have been worked out so as to provide monthly per capita availability of 425 grams of sugar on the basis of projected population as on April 1, 1978, the mid-year of the sugar season 1977-78. As such, Kerala State is being allotted a monthly levy sugar quota of 10,495 tonnes.

The Government of Kerala is handling the wholesale and retail distribution of levy sugar in the State. In March, 1980, according to Kerala Government, as against a monthly allotment of 10,495 tonnes of levy sugar, a quantity of 7130 tonnes had been lifted by March 25, 1980, of which 3889 tonnes had been made available for public distribution and the balance stock was in transit. The present allotment, as indicated by the State Government, will be lifted before the end of March, 1980.

Kerala Government has informed that open market availability of sugar is not adequate. They have requested Government of India to allot additional levy sugar to the State.

Smuggling of Watches

2135. **SHRI OSCAR FERNANDESE:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any increase in the smuggling of watches during last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) the number of smugglers arrested during the above period; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) and (b) Reports received by the Government and the seizures made by the Customs authorities indicate an upward trend of smuggling of watches into the country during the last three years. The total value of smuggled watches seized by the Customs authorities has risen to Rs. 3.36 crores in 1979 from Rs. 3.11 crores in 1978 and Rs. 1.68 crores in 1977.

(c) The number of persons arrested in connection with smuggling of watches into the country during the calendar years 1977, 1978 and 1979 are: 151, 283 and 342 respectively.

(d) The Customs preventive and intelligence machinery have been alerted to maintain a strict vigil to check any attempts to smuggle watches into the country. Efforts are also being made to raise the indigenous production of watches to meet the domestic demand for this item.

I.A. Service to connect Muzaffarpur with other Cities

2136. **SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines used to operate services between Muzaffarpur—an industrial town of Bihar and other principal cities of the country about five years ago;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian Airlines have not stopped the operation of Air service between Muzaffarpur and Patna; and

(c) if so, do Government propose to start operation of I.A. services connecting Muzaffarpur with other cities?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines has no plan to resume air service to Muzaffarpur.