

Hashish Haul in Mehrauli

727. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :
DR. A.K. PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Hashish worth about three million dollars was hauled in July last from a Mehrauli farm house ;

(b) whether his attention has been drawn to the report appearing in "The Indian Express" of 24 July, 1986 that the wanted person in the case had VIP connections and has evaded his arrest so far ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) On 12.7.1986, the officers of the Preventive Collectorate, West Bengal intercepted a lorry carrying machinery items from Delhi to Calcutta meant for export to U.K. and Saudi Arabia. Examination of the consignment resulted in the seizure of 767 Kgs. of hashish concealed in various machinery items. The interrogation of the driver and subsequent search of a farm house at Gadaipur Village, Delhi by officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence led to the seizure of a further quantity of 1341 Kgs. of hashish. No precise value of the drug seized can be furnished as the illicit market price varies from place to place and time to time depending upon the purity of the drug, local demand and supply position, place of origin etc. The investigating agency has no evidence to indicate the V.I.P. connections of the accused.

**Speedy Settlement of Insurance
Claims of Orphans and Widows**

728. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :
DR. A.K. PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) total number of claims pending with Life Insurance Corporation and General Insurance Corporation as at present ; and

(b) whether on humanitarian grounds, instructions are proposed to be issued to expedite (within a month or so) those cases where claimants are orphans or widows with little support ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) As on 31/3/86, 77929 maturity claims and 23884 death claims were pending with LIC. As on 31/12/85 there were 476129 claims pending with GIC and its subsidiaries.

(b) Both LIC and GIC have taken a series of measures for expeditious settlement of all claims. The matter is under continual review by the Government. The progress of settlement of outstanding claims by LIC and GIC is closely monitored and reviewed at periodic intervals. Appropriate advice and directions are issued by Government to LIC and GIC from time to time for speedy settlement of all categories of claims. Government have, however, no proposal at present to issue separate instructions in respect of the claims of orphans and widows only.

**British Government's Decision to
Introduce Visa Requirements for
AFRO-Asian Nationals**

729. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN :
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY :
PROF. RAMAKRISHNA
MORE :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHER-
JEE :
SHRI N. DENNIS :
SHRI H.B. PATIL :
SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that the British Government has decided to introduce visa requirements for nationals from five Afro-Asian countries including India ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its implications ; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With effect from 15.10.1986 all Indian citizens wishing to enter the United Kingdom must be in possession of a visa obtained before arrival in the U.K., failing which they will be refused entry. A visa fee, ranging from Rs. 240 to Rs. 500 will be charged.

(c) The Government of India deeply deplores the U.K. action as it would cause avoidable and unnecessary hardship and harassment to bona fide Indian visitors to U.K. The restrictions placed on India and four other Asian and African countries are discriminatory and racial in character.

Fund for Modernisation of Jute Industry

730. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government have set up a Rs. 150 crore jute modernisation fund ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and how this fund is planned to be utilised ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir:

(b) The Government of India have announced the setting up of Rs. 150 crore Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme which will be implemented by IFCI as the lead All India Financial Institution for Jute Industry. The Scheme has become operative with effect from 1st November, 1986 for a period of two years to be reviewed thereafter.

The assistance under the Jute modernisation Fund would be available to all existing jute mills including weak but potentially viable jute units.

The most important feature of the scheme is that upto 80% of the stipulated promoters' contribution, special loan at concessional rate of interest of 6% will be available to weak but potentially viable units.

A Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Textiles) has been set up to review the progress of implementation of the Scheme.

Demand for Ban on Import of Synthetic Fibres and Granules

731. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a demand has been made by the representatives of Indian Jute Mills Association, Central Trade Unions and West Bengal Government to ban the imports of synthetic fibres and granules ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Union Government's reaction thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b). Since synthetic substitutes for jute bags