

mately Rs. 72 lakhs and Indian currency amounting to Rs. 8 lakhs were recovered and seized under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962.

(c) to (f). The anti-smuggling drive was intensified during July, 1987. As a result, contraband gold worth about Rs. 2.89 crores was seized at the airports. During this month, 50 persons, including 8 foreigners, were arrested at the airports in connections with smuggling activities, including smuggling of gold.

Apart from confiscation of the gold, the offenders are penalised departmentally and also prosecuted in Courts of Law. In appropriate cases preventive detention under the COFEPOSA Act is resorted to.

Stoppage of Sreesailam Project

3709. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether he has written a letter on 12 June, 1987 to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh asking the State Government to stop the work on Sreesailam Left Bank Canal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) when is the project likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Minister (E&F) has requested Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to stop the work of construction of Sreesailam Left Bank Canal; in the Reserve Forest area, since diversion of forest area to non-forest use requires prior approval from Government of India under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 which has not been accorded till date.

(c) A decision on the proposal can be taken only on the receipt of essential details

from the State Government. Therefore, it is not possible to indicate the exact date when this project can be cleared.

Technologies and Processes needing Replacement

3710. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Industrial Development Bank of India propose to set up a special group comprising representatives from Government and the industry for identifying technologies and process that need replacement; and

(b) if so, the details of terms of reference and the date by which the group is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (b). The financial institutions have launched a new technology Upgradation Scheme with the objective of providing financial assistance for upgradation of technology in certain selected capital goods industries. The proposal received under this scheme would be processed by the financial institutions viz., Industrial Development Bank of India, Industrial Finance Corporation of India and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India. A special Technology Evaluation Committee would be set up consisting of experts, both official and non-officials. They may also include representatives from some private sector organisations for giving expert advice.

Take Over of R & D Centre of Keltron

3711. SHRI P.R. S. VENKATESAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take over the Electronics research and