

Studies by experts on Narmada Valley Projects

784. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether over a million people facing total disruption with their displacement by the Narmada Valley Project have threatened to launch agitation as the State Government concerned have gone back on their promises to rehabilitate them;

(b) whether it is a fact that recent studies by experts have raised serious doubts about the benefits from the project;

(c) if so, the details thereof stating the action taken by Government on the basis of the reassessment, if any, made in view of the doubts raised by the experts with regard to the benefits likely to be accrued from the project; and

(d) what is the reaction of Union Government with regard to (a) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d). About 1.53 lakh persons are likely to be affected. A Sub-Group under Narmada Control Authority is to oversee the rehabilitation work being implemented by the States. No shortfall in the benefits is anticipated.

Sale of Licences issued to dry fruit importers

785. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN:
SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that with the import of regulations prohibiting the new dealers to get into the business of importing dry fruits a good number of licences issued to the dry fruits importers are sold at a premium on letter of authority without corresponding liability to pay tax;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any study of such malpractices and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the correcting measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard, stating the action taken against the dry fruits importers indulging in such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) to (c). Under the current Import Policy and Procedures, a licence holder can appoint another person as his agent for arranging the imports permitted by the licence. The functions of such holders of letter of authority are limited to placing orders, opening letters of credit, making remittance of payment for importing the goods, arranging movement and clearing the same through the customs having regard to Sec. 147 of the Customs Act, 1962 on behalf of the licensee. However, sale of import licences for dry fruits is not allowed and any violation in this regard is dealt with in accordance with the provisions contained in Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947 and Imports (Control) Order, 1955.

Raids conducted by Income Tax

786. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether unaccounted wealth concealed by businessmen and lottery organisers through several ingenious methods has been recently detected in a series of raids conducted by the Income-Tax Department;

(b) if so, some of the highlights of these raids; and

(c) the effective steps being taken by Government to countenance such skilful evasion and plug the existing loopholes in the tax structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Income-tax Department has conducted 6915 searches in the current