

made up from imports. In 1976-77, total import of raw cashewnuts could not be more than 71,833 tonnes due to poor crop in the East African countries, who are India's main suppliers. Kerala Government has taken some measures for controlling the procurement, distribution and movement of raw cashewnuts produced in Kerala.

The Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by the industry and steps are being taken both to increase imports this year, as well as to increase indigenous production.

Economy in Government Expenditure

1663. SHRI K. MALLANNA:

SHRI ISHWAR CHOUDHARY:

SHRI MEETHA LAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently announced their policy to observe austerity and economy in Government expenditure; and

(b) if so, the measures Government have taken in this regard including the directions, if any, given to States?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the Ministries and Departments have been requested to explore the possibility of reducing the existing staff strength through a scrutiny of their current functions, systems and procedures and a detailed examination of all the Commissions and Committees that have been set up and are in existence to see whether they are serving a significantly useful purpose to justify their further continuance. The existing laws are also to be reviewed with a view to seeing if they have become superfluous and the staff originally recruited for their administration could be surrendered. The other economy

measures cover restrictions on creation of new posts and filling up of vacancies, strict economy in office expenditure, reduction in travelling allowance and overtime payments, restrictions on expenditure on staff cars, telephones, etc.

The economy measures have been brought to the notice of all the State Governments with the request that they may also consider adoption of similar measures in respect of their administrative expenditure.

Raids on economic offenders

1664. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) how many raids were conducted for alleged economic offences during the emergency;

(b) the agencies which conducted such raids;

(c) the result of such raids;

(d) whether any case study has been made of the raids conducted; and

(e) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) to (c). The Income Tax Department conducted search and seizure operations in 5912 cases during the period from July, 1975 to March, 1977 resulting in seizure of assets of the value of Rs. 35.10 crores. Books of accounts/documents were also seized in a number of cases.

Officers of the Customs and Central Excise Department conducted 66,000 (approx.) searches/raids for offences under the Customs Act during the period from July, 1975 to March, 1977. As a result of these searches/raids goods valued at Rs. 7 crores (approx.) besides documents were seized.