

(a) whether the proposed tourist launches for Gobind Sagar Lake in District Bilaspur of Himachal Pradesh have been fabricated and are ready for commissioning; and

(b) if so, the likely date by which the launches would be finally commissioned

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Shipping and Transport have intimated that launches are expected to be commissioned by the end of May, 1976.

Persons arrested for Economic Offences

356. **SHRI P. M. SAYEED:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the total number of persons arrested for economic offences after the declaration of emergency and their State-wise breakup?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): A total number of 59 persons were arrested for economic offences after the declaration of emergency in cases handled by the C.B.I. Their State-wise break-up is given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10065/76].

35 persons were arrested by the Foreign Exchange Enforcement Directorate during the period from 26-6-1975 to 31-12-1975 under the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act. Their State wise break-up is given in the Statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10065/76].

A total of 856 persons were detained under the COFEPOSA Act during the period from 25-6-1975 to 31-12-75. Their State-wise break-up is given

in the Statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10065/76].

Under Direct Taxes Laws there was no provision for the arrest of a person for such offences.

Information relating to arrests under Customs, Central Excise, and Gold Control laws is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Value of Rupee

357: **SHRI P. M. SAYEED:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the value of rupee has increased after the declaration of Emergency; and

(b) if so, to what extent and what further steps Government propose to take to strengthen its value?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b). The purchasing power of the Rupee, as measured by movements in the Industrial Workers' Consumer Price Index (1960=100), has increased by 6.7 per cent between June and October 1975. The behaviour of Wholesale prices in the period subsequent to October, 1975 encourages the hope that the value of the Rupee may rise further as the good agricultural season of this year, and the recent pick-up in industrial production, may tend to have a favourable effect on the price level. Thus, in the current year the gross national product of the country is expected to increase significantly in real terms. At the same time, the monetary and fiscal discipline which was strengthened last year would continue to be enforced in a regulated manner so as to stimulate production in the priority sectors. The combined result of these is expected to increase the internal value of the rupee.