

Power Project is to commission its first unit 36 months after attainment of financial closure.

#### Fodder Scam

3465. SHRI SANJAY SINH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have carried out country-wide raids in connection with the 1000 crore fodder scam and Rs. 300 crore bitumen scam;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of the persons and incriminating documents and unaccounted money seized from the residences of each person;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action against such persons;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the action is likely to be taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The Income-tax Department has carried out searches on persons referred to in part (a) of the Question.

(b) The names of the persons searched are as under:

#### BITUMAN SCAM GROUP :

- (a) Shri Md. Ilyas Hussain
- (b) Smt. Salma Khatoon, W/o Md. Ilyas Hussain
- (c) Shri Md. Manawar Hussain
- (d) Shri Md. Sahabuddin Beg alias Saheb Beg
- (e) Smt. Shobha Sinha
- (f) Capt. Suresh Chandra Verma

- (g) Major Yogendra Narayan Yadav
- (h) Shri Janardan Sharma
- (i) Shri Awadheshwar Pd. Sinha
- (j) Shri Kedar Paswan
- (k) Shri Satya Narayan Paswan
- (l) Shri Ram Nath Singh
- (m) Shri Dudheshwar Nath Singh
- (n) M/s Nath & Co.
- (o) Shri R.A. Khetan
- (p) M/s Pawan Carriers
- (q) Shri R.A. Khetan
- (r) Shri Janardan Aggarwal
- (s) Shri Binay Kumar Sinha
- (t) M/s Ansari Transport
- (u) Shri Nafis Ansari
- (v) Shri Narendra Kumar Prasad
- (w) Shri Ram Autar

#### ANIMAL HUSBANDRY SCAM GROUP

- (a) Dr. Ravindra Kumar Rana
- (b) Shri Tarkeshwar Viadya
- (c) Shri Prem Chand Gupta
- (d) Shri Shiv Kumar Gupta
- (e) Smt. Shalini Aggrawal & Shri Ashish Aggrawal
- (f) Shri S.N. Aggrawal
- (g) Corporate Office of M/s IST Ltd. & Others
- (h) Factory premises of M/s IST Ltd.
- (i) Branch Office of IST Ltd.

#### *Details of seizures made of cash, valuables and incriminating documents.*

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|---|--|
| (a) Shri Md. Ilyas Hussain                  | Cash Rs. 35,000/-. Other Assets; Rs. 50,000/-. Two Bank accounts in the name of the relatives of Shri Md. Hussain as well as photocopies of the official records pertaining to the Bitumen Scam have also been seized. |
| (b) Shri Md. Sahabuddin Beg alias Saheb Beg | Cash : Rs. 23,80,000/-. Other assets : Rs. 60,000/-.   |
| (c) Smt. Shobha Sinha                       | Papers relating to the acquisition of the residential flat at Patna have been found and seized.  |
| (d) Capt. Suresh Chandra Verma              | Cash : Rs. 1,24,000/-. Other Assets : Rs. 2,38,812/-. Papers relating to acquisition of movable and immovable properties have been found and seized.   |

- (e) Major Yogendra, Narayan Yadav Papers relating to acquisition of substantial immovable and movable properties have been found and seized in the course of the search operation.
- (f) Shri Janardan Sharma Other assets : Rs. 1,65,000/-. Papers relating to acquisition of immovable and movable properties have been found and seized in the course of the search operation.
- (g) Shri Awadheshwar Pd. Sinha Cash : Rs. 50,000/-. Papers relating to acquisition of immovable and movable properties have been found and seized in the course of the search operation.
- (h) Shri Satya Narayan Paswan Other assets : Rs. 11,68,417/-. Papers relating to acquisition of substantial immovable and movable property have been found and seized in the course of the search operation.
- (i) Shri Ram Nath Singh Cash : Rs. 96,400/-, Other Assets : Rs. 50,698/-. Papers relating to acquisition of substantial immovable and movable properties have been found and seized in the course of the search operation.
- (j) Shri Dudheshwar Nath Singh Blank signed consignment receipt by the Engineers of the RCD acknowledging the receipt of the Bitumen has been found and seized.
- (k) M/s Nath & Co. Papers relating to receipt of payments from the IOC have been found and seized.
- (l) Shri R.A. Khetan Cash : Rs. 45,000/-. Papers relating to acquisition of substantial immovable and movable properties have been found and seized in the course of the search operation.
- (m) Shri Natis Ansari Papers relating to transportation of Bitumen have been found along with various blank consignee receipts of Bitumen supply which are duly signed by Engineer of Public Works Department, Government of Bihar. A Diary containing entries regarding payment of commission to various persons against transportation and sale of Bitumen in open market have also been seized.
- (n) Shri Narendra Kumar Prasad Cash : Rs. 1,05,000/-. Other assets : Rs. 68,200/-. A Diary was seized indicating collection of sums from Engineers of Road Construction Department.
- (o) Shri Ram Autar Cash : Rs. 75,000/-. Other assets; Rs. 5,78,680/-. Papers relating to acquisition of substantial immovable and movable properties have been found and seized in the course of the search operation.
- (p) Corporate Office of M/s IST Ltd. & Others Documents indicating large scale dealing in Foreign Exchange. Receipts of Commission and incorporation of numerous front companies have been found and seized.
- (q) Branch office of M/s IST Ltd. Documents pertaining to transfer of funds to the tune of US \$65,000 from Hongkong based company of Shri Prem Chand Gupta to another Company in India were found and seized.
- Details of Inter-corporate Deposits made with the companies of Sri Prem Chand Gupta have also been gathered.
- Photocopies of the Sale Deeds pertaining to sale & purchase of plots of land at Mchrauli & Gurgaon have been found and seized.
- Details of investment in shares of the companies incorporated in India as well as in U.K. by Hongkong based company of Sri Prem Chand Gupta. M/s Gupta International Investment Company Ltd. have also been found and seized.

(c) to (e) Under Chapter XIV B of the Income-tax Act, 1961, search action is followed up by making block assessments for a period of ten years to arrive at the undisclosed income. The tax is levied at a higher rate of 60 per cent of such undisclosed income. Initiation of prosecution proceedings for willfully attempting to evade tax is provided for in the Income-tax Act. The action under the law will be considered at the appropriate time after coming to a finding regarding the concealment of income.

#### Clearance of Backlog of Patent

3466. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "efforts on to enhance manpower of patent offices to clear backlog" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated April 15, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and reaction of the Government thereto and action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) the present status regarding the nature of reforms and legislation proposed to be brought about during the current year;

(d) the pendency, position of patent received/processed/cleared and pending as on April 30, 1998;

(e) whether there is a proposal to shift Apex Patent Office from Calcutta; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) In the absence of any significant modernisation or restructuring of the patent administration system since its establishment, over 29,000 patent applications were awaiting examination as in April, 1998. This has led to delays in grant of patents. During the period 1997-98, 1844 patents were granted.

The Government has been taking steps from time to time to modernise the system including the preparation of a plan to provide required qualified personnel, infrastructural facilities, optimisation of available resources through reorientation of functions between offices and elimination of backlog of patent applications.

#### Eleventh Finance Commission

3467. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from various States to convene a meeting of Chief

Ministers to discuss the terms of references of the Eleventh Finance Commission; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, such proposals were received from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, J & K, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura & West Bengal.

Government of India had invited suggestions from all the States regarding the Terms of Reference of the 11th Finance Commission. Almost all the States except Bihar, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim had sent their suggestions which were taken into consideration by the Government while finalising the Terms of Reference. The 11th Finance Commission has since been constituted on July 3, 1998. Both the Houses of Parliament were informed of this development on July 6, 1998 through a Statement made by the Finance Minister.

#### Export of Orange and Kinnu

3468. SHRI SHANKAR PANNU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value of export of orange and Kinnu made from Ganganagar, Hanumangarh and Jhalawar districts of Rajasthan during the last two years, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to export kinnu during the current year;

(c) if so, the quantum thereof alongwith the countries to which the export is proposed to be made;

(d) whether the Government propose to establish a waxing plant in Ganganagar for export of Kinnu; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Data on State-wise/district-wise exports of these products is not maintained. However, the exports of Oranges, mandarins and other citrus fruits during 1995-96 and 1996-97 for which detailed figures are available are as follows :

(Qty: Mts;	Value : Rs. Lakhs.)	
Year	Qty	Value
1995-96	18367	1426
1996-97	24608	1887

These fruits are exported mainly to Bangladesh, UAE, Malaysia, U.K., Mauritius, Singapore, USA, Netherlands, etc.

(b) and (c) Government is not directly involved in the export of these fruits. However, it encourages exports of