

Kerala Government's request for withdrawal of excise duty on electricity

*169. SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government have represented to the Central Government that the levy of excise duty at the rate of two paise per unit on electricity generated in the State is a blow to the economic development of Kerala and has requested for its withdrawal; and

(b) if so, what is the Central Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has not been found possible for the Government to accede to the request of the Kerala Government for withdrawal of excise duty on electricity.

Seizure of hashish

*170. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who were apprehended for involvement in illicit traffic in hashish and the quantity of hashish seized from them during the year 1977 and so far during 1978; and

(b) the manner in which the confiscated hashish has been disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) 216 persons were apprehended for involvement in illicit traffic in hashish during the year 1977 and upto March, 1978. The quantity of hashish seized during the same period was 2,289 kg.

(b) The confiscated hashish is destroyed on completion of legal proceedings under the law. The position regarding disposal of contraband hashish covered by cases referred to

above will be ascertained and laid on the Table of the House.

Policy on joint ventures overseas

*171. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRO:

SHRI BHOLA PRASAD:

SHRI BIRCHANDRA DEB BURMAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new policy on according its approval for setting up joint ventures overseas; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have revised the guidelines governing Indian joint ventures abroad. A copy of the new guidelines is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix CV, Annexure No. 20].

Export of Human Skeletons

*172. SHRI GURUDEV

GUPTA: ..

SHRI SAWAISINGH

SISODIA:

SHRIMATI HAMIDA

HABIBULLAH:

SHRI PRAKASH

MEHROTRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state the details regarding the human skeletons exported during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.