

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### REFINERY LICENCES ISSUED UNDER THE GOLD CONTROL RULES

171. SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of refinery licences issued under the Gold Control Rules by the Gold Control Administrator during 1966-67;

(b) what is the number of appeals pending against the Administrator's orders?

(c) in how many cases renewals of refinery licences have been refused; and

(d) whether there are complaints that in the matter of issue and renewals of these licences there has been discrimination on the part of the Gold Control Administrator?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) No refinery licences were issued as such during 1966-67. However, out of 102 existing refiners 90 applied for renewal as required by Defence of India (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1966. Out of these, in 64 cases, renewal of the licences was refused.

(b) and (c) There is no provision for a formal appeal in the Gold Control Rules against the Administrator's decision declining to renew a refiner's licence. However, 18 representations received against such refusal were examined and 13 have been rejected; the remaining 5 are under examination.

(d) Some applicants have stated in their representations that their applications for renewal have been rejected arbitrarily. But there has been no reference in any representation to dis-

crimination on the part of the Administrator.

#### IDIKKI HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT

172. SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the proposed financial investment as per project report on the Idikki Hydro-Electric Project; and

(b) when did preliminary works in connection with this project start and what is the amount so far spent?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a) According to the latest revised estimate, the Idikki Hydro-electric Project Stage I will cost Rs. 68.2 crores.

(b) The preliminary works on the project were started in 1961-62. An expenditure of Rs. 828 lakhs has been incurred up to March, 1967.

#### UNIT TRUST OF INDIA

173. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Unit Trust of India is being widely criticised in knowledgeable circles, for its failure to provide strength to the capital market; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to strengthen the Unit Trust Organisation to undertake lending support to the capital market and particularly to the growth of stocks including support to co-operative sector?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) No.

(b) The main purpose of the Unit Trust is to mobilise savings and invest them so as to secure to the unit holders safety of capital and a steady return on their investments. It is not the appropriate agency for lending support to the capital market and the