

(b) There is no proposal to take over the Gandak Project. The Centre is not in favour of taking over this Project as it would not solve the question of finding additional finance for the speedy execution of the Project. Efforts will continue to be made to provide adequate funds for the project.]

SEIZURE OF GOLD AT THE SANTA CRUZ AIRPORT IN BOMBAY

*203. SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 30th April, 1968 the officials of the Customs Department seized 25 kgs. of gold valued at Rs. 3-75 lakhs from a French national at Santa Cruz Airport in Bombay; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) and (b) On the 30th April, 1968 the officials of the Customs Department at Santa Cruz Airport, Bombay seized 25 kgs. of gold valued at about Rs. 2 1 lakhs at the international monetary rate and at about Rs. 4-1 lakhs at the Indian market price from a French national who arrived by Iran Airways from Tehran. The gold was concealed on his person in specially stitched cloth jacket.

REPRESENTATION FROM SMALL NEWSPAPERS

♦204. SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has recently received any representation from the small newspapers against the additional postal charges being levied by Government; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal by Government to reconsider the additional postal charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.-

CENTRAL' ASSISTANCE FOR MADRAS

*205. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Madras have recently asked for any financial

assistance from the Central Government to make up the loss incurred by the State Government by following the policy of Prohibition; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA) : (a) No, sir. (b) Does not arise.

CENTRAL ASSISTANCE FOR PROHIBITION

*206. SHRI KESAVAN (THAZHA-VA) : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assurance has been given recently by the Finance Minister to the Governments of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh to the effect that in case prohibition is introduced in the above States, the Central Government would pay off 50 per cent of the loss that might be suffered by the States for introducing prohibition in their areas; and

(b) if so, whether any such contribution has been made by Government till to date to any State Government where prohibition is already in force?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA) : (a) and (b) There has been no recent communication from these two State Governments asking for compensation for the introduction of Prohibition in their areas. The Government of India are, however, willing to compensate 50% of the losses likely to be incurred by State Governments for introducing Prohibition in their areas for a period of 5 years. The offer of the Central Government to compensate 50% of the loss in revenue as a result of introduction of Prohibition will apply to the States which introduce Prohibition in the future and it is not intended to apply to areas where Prohibition is already in force.

FERTILIZER FACTORY IN ANDHRA PRADESH

*207- SHRI Y. ADINARAYANA REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred No. 55 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th April, 1968 and state :

(a) whether the report of the Fertilizer Corporation of India regarding the feasibility of establishing a fertilizer plant is