

(a) to (d). The revised estimate of Rs. 931.24 crores for Indira Gandhi Nehar Project Stage-II was accorded investment clearance by the Planning Commission in April, 1987. This approval was for Culturable Command Area of 10.12 lakh ha. including the Gajner (49537 ha.) and Kolayat (77756 ha.) Lift Irrigation Schemes.

Based on mid-term review of the project, Government of Rajasthan has submitted revised project estimate of Stage-II Canal works amounting to Rs. 2,463 crores in July, 93. The project is being appraised by CWC.

[English]

Licences for Arms

2267. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided or considering to increase licence of arms sales, manufacture and import in the wake of increasing terrorism, outlaw outfits and criminal activities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (c). Arms Act, 1959 and Arms Rules, 1962 govern various activities, such as, manufacture, acquisition, possession, import, trade etc. of firearms. Arms licences for various purposes are granted as per provisions of the Act/Rules as also keeping in view the policy guidelines in existence at the time to issue of licences. State Governments/UT Administrations have been delegated powers to issue dealership licences in respect of sale, keep for sale etc. of arms and ammunition. They formulate policy guidelines for grant of such licences taking into consideration the prevailing law and order situation and other relevant factors within their respective jurisdiction.

2. As regards arms manufacturing licences, according to the existing policy, no fresh licences for manufacture of arms and ammunition in the private sector are to be granted.

3. Regarding grant of import licences, under the existing policy of the Central Government, import of firearms for personal use has been banned since November, 1986. However, import is permissible under Transfer of Residence Rules subject to certain conditions and to the sports persons for sports purposes on the recommendations of Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Liquor

2269. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that liquor is

being smuggled on large scale in Delhi from the neighbouring States;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) the extent of loss of revenue being suffered by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) Yes, Sir. Smuggling of liquor into Delhi from adjoining States has been reported.

(b) The Government of NCT of Delhi has taken the following measures to contain smuggling of liquor from neighbouring States;

(i) Vigil at the border has been intensified;

(ii) Enforcement activities by the Enforcement Wing of the Excise Department of the Government of NCT of Delhi have been intensified;

(iii) Excise Intelligence Bureau of the Government of NCT of Delhi also collects intelligence of smuggling of liquor for further action;

(iv) Watch is being maintained by the Police over bad characters who are suspected to be indulging in smuggling of unauthorised liquor into Delhi;

(v) Secret watch is kept over godowns of transporters/public carriers who are suspected to be indulging in the liquor trade;

(c) In the absence of realistic figures on quantum of smuggled liquor consumed in Delhi, loss of Government revenue cannot be worked out.

[English]

Kharland Project

2269. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kharland (saline land reclamation) project in Maharashtra under EEC Phase-I has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the funds for the above project were diverted;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the reasons for delaying in starting Phase-II of the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 144 schemes covering an area of 16,600 hectares have been completed at a cost of Rs. 18 crores.

(c) As per Maharashtra Government, no funds of saline