

(c) if so, the number of such rallies/melas organised during 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85 and the venues therefore; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to consider to organise them ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE  
(SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a)  
Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Special rallies/melas are organised if the recruitment in any year falls short of the authorised in take based on the recruitable male population of the State. One such rally was held at Imphal in October, 1982.

In 1983 and 1984 there were no shortfalls in recruitment from Manipur.

#### Import of Personal Computers Under Baggage Rules

306. SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state on what basis personal computers with 64 kilo bytes and less memory have been permitted to be imported under the Baggage Rules, specially when such a definition can cover almost every type of small business computer and the indigenous industry may come to a stand still ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI  
JANARDHANA POOJARY) : Keeping in view the interests of indigenous industry, personal/home computers with a memory exceeding 64 K are not allowed to be imported as baggage. Government have recently announced a new computer policy, which is designed to promote rapid development of indigenous computer industry, while ensuring that the interests of users and the economy in general are not lost sight of.

#### Implementation of Sethusamudram Canal Project

307. SHRI K.T. KOSALRAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken to implement Sethusamudram Canal Project as a defence project;

(b) whether Lakashmi Narayan Committee in which the Chief of Southern Naval Command was a member has also conceded the strategic importance of this project; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE  
(SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a)  
The Sethusamudram Canal Project is not being considered as a Defence Project.

(b) and (c). The Lakshmi Narayan Committee set up by the Ministry of Shipping & Transport to study the economic viability of the Project did refer to the potential strategic importance of the project. The project is, however, being considered by the concerned Ministries from all relevant aspects.

#### Additional safety measures in Coal Mines

308. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any additional safety measures for coal mines which also emanate poisonous gas as was experienced at Union Carbide recently ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES  
AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :  
(a) and (b) The Coal Mines normally do not emit poisonous gases. Sometimes