

(a) whether Mysore Government resorts to the system of auctions for giving contracts of liquor shops in the State ;

(b) whether the beer-taverns in Bangalore and Gulbarga cities and civil areas incur heavy loss every month ;

(c) whether Government have received complaints regarding this system of auctions taluka-wise ; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) In Gulbarga only one beer-tavern has been auctioned for the year 1971-72. Since no such tavern was in existence during the preceding year, the question of its incurring losses does not arise. In Bangalore city and civil area the beer taverns are suffering some losses but these are reported to have been more than made up by corresponding gains from sale of Toddy and Arrack.

(c) Suggestions were received by the State Government for discontinuing auctions of Toddy Shops at Taluka or shop levels.

(d) The suggestions made were considered by the State Government. They have, however, not considered it necessary to make any change in the method of auctions.

Seizure of Gold in Bombay

4378. SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Customs officials have recently recovered gold from some places in Bombay ; and

(b) if so, the number of persons arrested in this connection so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) Yes, Sir. 178 Kgs. of gold valued at Rs. 15 lakhs at international monetary rate and Rs. 34 lakhs at the Indian market rate was seized by the Customs and Central Excise authorities at Bombay during the period from 1-4-71 to 30-6-71.

(b) 16 persons were arrested in this connection.

Payment of Rent on Land acquired for constructing Quarters for the Staff of Customs Department, Cochin

4379. SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the employees of the Customs Department, Cochin are paying monthly a sum similar to rent for the land acquired by Government for constructing staff quarters in 1965 ;

(b) if so, the amount thereof ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) No, Sir. The rent for the land acquired by the Government for constructing staff quarters at Cochin is being paid by the Government and not by the employees of the Customs Department, Cochin.

(b) and (c). The question does not arise in view of (a) above,

Expansion of Cochin Airport

4380. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has requested the Defence Ministry for permission to expand the Airport at Cochin ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Defence Ministry thereon ?