

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed): The Balemiela Hydro-electric Project is estimated to involve a total outlay of Rs. 45.83 crores.

The Project is expected to start supplying power from about the end of 1968 when the 1st generating unit is expected to be commissioned. All the works under this project are expected to be completed by March, 1971.

Contraband Watches seized near Rajkot

1853. Shri Ram Harkh Yadav: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether 800 contraband watches worth about Rs. 2 lakhs have been seized in Jodia Town, 50 miles from Rajkot by Excise officials in the last week of January, 1966; and

(b) if so, the details of the seizure and smuggling?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) and (b). Between 21st January, 1966 and 6th February, 1966, the Police authorities in collaboration with the Customs staff, seized 1497 watches valued at about Rs. 1,40,000 in the village Jodiya near Rajkot. Some other contraband goods such as mechanical lighters, lighter flints and cigarettes valued at about Rs. 22,300 have also been seized. Investigations made so far indicate that these goods were smuggled from Dubai in the Persian Gulf in a vessel which has also since been seized. Five persons have been arrested in this connection. Further investigations are in progress.

Treatment of Bites by Scorpion

1854. Shri Ram Harkh Yadav: Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether Israel has developed a highly efficacious serum against the bite of yellow scorpion and snakes;

(b) if so, whether Government have experimented with the serum for use in India; and

(c) if so, with what result?

The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) Government have no information on the subject.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Manufacture of Sluice and Lock Gates

1855. Shri Sidheshwar Prasad: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1316 on the 26th November, 1965 and state:

(a) the progress made in the manufacture of sluice and lock gates in the country;

(b) the progress made in the designing and manufacture of high head gates; and

(c) the approximate internal and foreign demands for the next five years?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Aakhruddin Ahmed): (a) Sluice gates with low heads and lock gates are already being manufactured in some of the existing workshops in the country.

(b) A number of workshops are interested in the manufacture of high head gates, if detailed designs and drawings are made available to them. A proposal for setting up a Gates Design Cell in the Central Water and Power Commission to prepare such designs and drawings, is under consideration.

(c) The total demand for gates for continuing schemes of the Third Plan and for schemes proposed to be taken up during the Fourth Plan is estimated at about 77,000 tonnes out of which 25,000 tonnes will be for high head gates. It is too early to assess the foreign demand for these gates.