

(iii) The value limit of jewellery allowed to be imported duty-free under the Passengers (Non-Tourist) Baggage Rules is being raised from Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 3200/-.

(iv) The value limit for exemption from Customs Duty in respect of gift parcels of food, including provisions and confectionery (but not liquor and alcoholic drinks) and medicines, imported by post or by air freight, has been raised from Rs. 50/- to Rs. 80/-. The value limit in respect of other goods imported by post, as gift parcels, has been raised from Rs. 10/- to Rs. 40-.

Idikki Project

461. **Shri M. K. Kumaran:** Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to complete the Idikki Project during the Fourth Plan period; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not allotting sufficient funds for the project with a view to enable its construction in the scheduled time?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed):

(a) and (b). The Fourth Plan has not yet been finalised. The Plan targets and the outlays are under review. At this stage, it is not yet possible to indicate the physical programme of the Idikki project and the funds that will be available for the project during the Fourth Plan period.

Pollution of Chaliyar River

462. **Shri A. V. Raghavan:** Will the Minister of **Health and Family Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Government of Kerala to construct a weir at Chaliyar river to prevent water pollution caused by the

effluents discharged from the Birla Rayon Factory, Calicut;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in the matter; and

(c) the steps taken to maintain purity of water in the river?

The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a)

and (b). No. However a proposal for the construction of salt exclusion structure to make fresh water available for the use of the Gwalior Rayons Ltd., Mavoor, Calicut is under consideration of the State Government.

(c) (i) The management of the Gwalior Rayon Plup Factory has been directed by the State Government to treat the factory wastes suitably before discharging into the river.

(ii) The State Assistant Director of Fisheries, Research has been directed by the State Government to examine the hydrological and planktological conditions of the river regularly from certain fixed stations of the river in order to assess the effects of pollution.

(iii) The State Government have been asked by the Ministry of Health and Family Planning to take suitable action under the Factories Act or in accordance with the terms of licence to the factory.

Special P. W. Deptt. for carrying out Panchayat Works in Kerala

463. **Shri A. V. Raghavan:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Urban Development** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Government of Kerala to constitute a special Public Works Department for carrying out panchayat works; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter?