

The Minister of Planning, Petroleum and Chemicals, and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

State Irrigation and Power Ministers' Conference at Delhi

*234. Shri Hem Raj:
Shri Vishwanath Pandey:
Shri Ram Kishan Gupta:
Shri Dhirendranath:
Dr. Ranom Sen:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of State Ministers of Irrigation and Power was held at Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the main items discussed and the conclusions arrived at; and

(c) how they are proposed to be implemented?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-489/67].

Processing of Bidi Tobacco

*235. Shri Devan Sen:
Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Tobacco Warehouse Licensees Association, Jhajha about the processing of Bidi tobacco and separation of dust in warehouses;

(b) whether the Patna Excise Collectorate have issued orders prohibiting this separation and imposing tax on the entire quantity inclusive of the dust;

(c) whether such orders have also been issued by the other Collectorates in the country;

(d) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the ill-effects of this order on the quality and sale of Bidis produced in Bihar; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to direct the said Collectorate to rescind these orders?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri K. C. Pant): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. In a few collectorates.

(d) Representation has been received against the stoppage of reprocessing in warehouses, of processed bidi tobacco for separation of dust.

(e) The Collector has since reviewed his orders and permitted reprocessing of biri tobacco for separation of dust in warehouses.

Taking Over or Financing of Major Projects

*236. Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Moona:
Shri K. Pradhani:
Shri Heerji Bhal:
Shri K. N. Pandey:
Shri Ram Kishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 699 on the 6th April, 1967 and state:

(a) whether the proposal to take over or finance some major projects has since been considered; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) and (b). Some selected major projects are being given 100 per cent earmarked loan assistance by the Centre. The criteria for selection of additional projects for which Central assistance might be earmarked in the Fourth Plan is under consideration.