

Neera tapping licence to all federations: Babu

Special Correspondent

KOCHI: Minister for Excise K. Babu said here on Saturday that all the 173 federations that had applied for tapping neera would be issued licence soon.

He was speaking at the commercial launch of neera and neera derivatives from the Thiruckochi Coconut Producer Company here at a function organised at the headquarters of the Coconut Development Board.

Coconut Development Board Chairman T.K. Jose said in his introductory remarks that though 173 federations had applied for licence, only 17 of them had been issued permission to tap coconut trees for neera.

Mr. Babu said the issue was on his mind and that the licences would be issued soon. He claimed that the UDF government had a proactive Excise Department and that he was happy to have done good work for the toddy business in the State too. Mr. Jose said the total number of federations seeking the licence had now gone up to about 300.