

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Assessment of potential of tourist centres, is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. The Central Department of Tourism has not undertaken any survey to assess the tourist potential in Tamil Nadu.

(b) Does not arise.

Discussions with Pakistan's Minister of Interior on Punjab problem

851. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the (Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have discussed and proposals to contain the encouragement received by Punjab terrorists through Pakistan borders with Mr. Ahsan, Pakistan's Minister of interior who visited India recently;

(b) if so, what are the details of the discussions held; and

(c) what is Government's assessment about Pakistan's attitude in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Pakistan Interior Minister visited India as Special Envoy of Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto from April 8-11, 1989. Amongst the subjects discussed with him was also terrorist activities directed against India in the Punjab.

(c) Government hope that the establishment of a democratic Government in Pakistan will lead to the cessation of Pakistan's involvement in terrorist activities against India.

Effect of Recent Violence. In J&K on Tourism

852. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the (Minister of CIVIL AVIATION and TOURISM be pleased to state-

(a) whether Government are aware of the effect on the tourist flow both domestic and foreign in Jammu and Kashmir due to the violence which erupted there recently; and

(b) what are the details of arrangements made by Government so as to attract more tourists, particularly, during the summer season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the measures initiated by the Government for attracting more tourists to the State of Jammu & Kashmir include strengthening of tourism infrastructure facilities in the State and wide publicity of tourist attractions of the State. The Central Department of Tourism together with Jammu & Kashmir Tourism and Air-India have launched a major Worldwide campaign to promote Kashmir during the forthcoming summer season. Special Kashmir promotion seminars have been held in East Asia, South Asia, Japan, Europe and U.K. Indian Airlines offer a 10 per cent. discounted return fare at US dollar 90 on Delhi-Srinagar-Delhi Sector.

Help Sought from Non-aligned Nations by Mauritius to get back. Diego Garcia

853. SHRI CHITTA BASU- Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the statement made by the Deputy Prime Minister of Mauritius, on March 18, 1989, at New Delhi, to the effect that with the help of the non-aligned nations, Mauritius would get back the Diego Garcia;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to take up the matter with the concerned country which seeks to build up a military base in the island; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Government have seen a report of a statement to this effect by the Deputy Prime Minister of Mauritius.

(b) to (d) Government have in all international fora consistently acknowledged (Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago including Diego Garcia and called for its return to Mauritius. Government have associated themselves with the same position taken by the Non-aligned Movement. The Non-aligned Foreign Ministers' Conference held in Cyprus in September 1988 also expressed concern over the strengthening of the military base at Diego Garcia whose establishment has endangered the sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful development of Mauritius and other states. The Foreign Ministers called for the early return of Diego Garcia to Mauritius

Creation of SAARC Fund

854. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of SAARC to create a SAARC Fund to remove trade imbalances in the South Asian region; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Notice for Strike by Employees and Workers of Eastern Railway

855. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employees and work of the Eastern

Railway had given notice for strike, if their demands were not conceded to by 31st March, 1989;

(b) if so, what is the nature of these demands; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

New Railway Line between Raichur and Machherla in Andhra Pradesh

956. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision in respect of new railway line between Raichur and Machherla in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, at what stage the matter rests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) A survey for a new B.G. railway line between Raichur and Machherla (260 km) is in progress. ,'

Recruitment in the Archaeological Survey of India

857. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government effected certain amendments to the Recruitment Rules of the Group 'A' Officers of the Archaeological Survey of India in 1982 adversely affecting a larger section of the officers and without considering and disposing of the legitimate objections raised by some officers of the general cadre, in order to bring the heads of specialised branches like, Science, Conservation and Epigraphy, into general cadre for promotion to .