

Sealing of the bank accounts of hotels under ITDC

\*235. SHRI SURESH KALMA-DI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has sealed bank accounts of three major hotels run by India Tourism Development Corporation; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) and (b) The MCD had in March, 1989 sent bills dated 13-3-89 for payment of property tax in respect of the following three hotels of ITDC for the amount indicated against each which were required to be paid/objections filed on their demand/assessment latest by 28-3-89:

Name of the hotel	Amount demanded (Rs. lakhs)
1. Lodhi Hotel •	11.52
2. Ranjit Hotel .....	9.34
3. Qutab Hotel . . . . .	TOTAL : 29.31
	50.17

ITDC filed objections on the demands/assessment made by the MCD by the due date i.e. 28-3-1989. However, the MCD issued distress warrants which were received on 3-4-1989, freezing the bank accounts of the three ITDC Hotels. To resolve the matter, the ITDC Hotels have paid service charges to the tune of Rs. 7.80 lakhs to the MCD for the years 1985-86 to 1988-89 against their demand for property tax of Rs. 50.17 lakhs. The distress warrants issued by the MCD have since been withdrawn on 12-4-1989.

Setting up of State Councils for Higher Education

\*236. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman, University Grants Commission, has written to Chief Ministers

of all States to expedite the setting up of State Councils for Higher Education in order to promote planning and coordination of higher education at the State level;

(b) whether the Central Government have issued any guidelines in this regard; and

(c) if so., what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, as visualised in the Programme of Action for the implementation of the National Policy on Education, 1986, the University Grants Commission has circulated guidelines for setting up State Councils of Higher Education.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.