

Housing and other facilities for employees working in the I.T.D.C., Tourist Centres and Government Hotels

1754. SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE:

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of facilities in respect of (i) housing and (ii) children's education that have been made available to the employees including officers working in ITDC, Government Hotels, and Tourist Centres all over the country during the last one year;

(b) whether the employees have made any demands in this regard; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to meet the demands of these employees?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) The ITDC is helping its employees by providing House Building Loan for construction/purchase of houses/flats. During 1980-81, a provision of Rs. 20 lakhs was made on this account. Out of this, about Rs. 17 lakhs has been disbursed upto 28.2.1981.

In addition, the employees are entitled to House Rent Allowance as per ITDC rules.

The employees have also formed a Housing Society namely, Paryatan Vihar Cooperative Group Housing Society Ltd., Delhi which is duly registered and has 1400 members. Efforts are being made to secure allotment of land from DDA.

As regards facility of children's education, the ITDC has adopted the scheme of the Central Government in respect of its employees.

(b) and (c) There has been a general demand from the employees for provision of staff quarters but the ITDC rules permit only the admissible House Rent Allowance.

Information pertaining to the Hotel Corporation of India is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Discovery of Mineral Deposits in Thar Desert

1755. SHRI HARVENDAR SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge deposits of potash, rock-salt, tungsten, lead and zinc have been found by Indian geologists under the Thar desert;

(b) if so, whether any proper assessment of the minerals has since been made; and

(c) what is the estimated value and the export potential thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Huge deposits only of rock-salt at places containing minor amounts of potash minerals have so far been located in the Churu-Bikaner districts of Rajasthan. Occurrences of tungsten and deposits of lead and zinc minerals have also been located in Rajasthan but they are not in the Thar desert region.

(c) value and the export potential of the deposits can be worked out only after completion of the investigations.

Financial help to Punjab

1756. SHRI HARVENDAR SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Punjab have approached the Central Government for immediate financial help to save their prestigious power and other plants;