

Visit of British Foreign Secretary to India

*69. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary had recently visited India;

(b) whether the British Foreign Secretary had any talks with him and the Prime Minister; and

(c) if so, what is the nature of the talks?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (c) Lord Carrington the British Foreign Secretary, visited Delhi from 16 to 18 January, 1980 and had discussions with the Minister for External Affairs on a number of issues including Afghanistan. He also called on the Prime Minister. International and bilateral issues were discussed. While there was agreement that the danger to peace and stability in this region had increased, there were differences in perception between the two sides. No agreed solutions were proposed.

Issue of All India permits for tourist buses

*70. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 837 given in the Rajya Sabha, on 2nd March, 1979 and state:

(a) what is the number of all India permits for operation of tourist buses so far issued by the Delhi Administration;

(b) what are the reasons for not issuing all the allotted permits;

(c) what are the criteria laid down by the Delhi Administration for selection of organisations/individuals for issue of permits; and

(d) whether preference is being

given to any category of persons, if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) to (d) A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) 18.

(b) Out of 50 permits allocated to Delhi Administration in two instalments, 32 permits are still to be issued. In 1977 remaining 7 permits out of the original quota of 25 permits allotted by Government of India to Delhi Administration could not be issued as one of the operators challenged the decision of the Delhi State Transport Authority dated 14-4-77 inviting applications for grant of these permits before the State Transport Appellate Tribunal, which stayed further proceedings in the matter pending disposal of the appeal. The Tribunal disposed of the appeal on 4-1-78 and directed for fresh consideration of the pending applications along with that of the appellant. Consequent upon Delhi State Transport Authority's decision dated 28-4-79, applications were invited afresh, making reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and economically weaker sections of the Society. These were also challenged in the State Transport Appellate Tribunal as well as in Delhi High Court. The High Court disposed of the writ petition on 12-12-79. The High Court quashed the order of the S.T.A. to the extent it provided for reservation of permits for SC, ST and economically weaker sections in the allotment of All India tourist permits. The implication of order of the Delhi High Court is being examined in Delhi Administration.

(c) No all India tourist permits have been issued in Delhi after September, 1976 due to the orders of S.T.A. being challenged before the State Transport Appellate Tribunal and Delhi High Court. The criteria for selection of organisations/individuals