

(a) whether a Conference of State Information Ministers was held in August, 1974:

(b) if so, the main recommendations made thereat: and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Conference emphasised the urgent need to promote constructive attitudes in meeting the challenges that the nation faces and to pool the resources of the Central and State Information agencies to achieve the maximum reach and impact of the mass communication campaigns in aid of increased agricultural and industrial production; family welfare and national morale. It recommended close coordination between the Central and State information agencies and greater use of traditional and folk media among urban and rural audiences and mobilisation of the energies of the youth.

(c) Action is being taken to implement the decisions of the Conference.

#### Issue of Special Permits for visiting Darjeeling

◆662. SHRI SASANKASEKHR SANYAL:

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY:

SHRI SUHRID MULLICK CHOWDHARY:

SHRI SALIL KUMAR

GANGUI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 336 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th March, 1974 and state whether Government have since taken a decision to withdraw the orders for obtaining special permits by foreign nationals for visiting Darjeeling District in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): It has been decided to allow foreign nationals to visit Darjeeling town without

permits under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order for stay up to 15 days provided they travel by air to and from Bagdogra en-route to Darjeeling.

#### Parking of Mini Buses near the Main Gate of New Delhi Railway Station

\*663. SHRI D. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mini buses are unauthorisedly parked just outside the main gate of New Delhi Railway Station with the result that traffic is blocked causing great hardship to the general public:

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no arrangement of traffic police in that area; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): (a) With the increase in the number of mini buses the assigned parking space became inadequate and some bus operators started parking their buses on the main road. Arrangements have since been made to provide additional parking space and these buses are not parked on the road any longer.

(b) and (c): While police arrangements have been made the traffic problem cannot really be solved unless the congestion is suitably relieved. Towards this end, proposals are under consideration of Government for widening the Chelmsford road and providing an additional point of entry to the New Delhi Railway Station from the Thompson Road side.

#### Floods in Bihar

◆664. SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have sent a team to Bihar to make an on the spot assessment of havoc created by recent floods in that State: