

WORLD BUDDHISTS' MEET

♦393. SHRI R. R. DIWAKAR: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is going to be any World Buddhists' Meet at Sarnath this year;

(b) if so, what are the facilities asked for from the Central Government by the Organisers, the Maha-bodhi Society of India;

(c) the countries from which visitors are expected to attend this Meet; and

(d) what is the approximate number of people expected from it, broadly?

THE MINISTER FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVIS): (a) Yes, Sir. The Seventh Conference of the World Fellowship of Buddhists began at Sarnath on the 29th November 1964 and will conclude on the 4th December, 1964.

(b) The Mahabodhi Society of India had requested the Central Government for assistance in getting rail concession, accommodation for the delegates, venue for the conference, customs and visa facilities and general arrangements for the holding of the conference at Sarnath.

(c) Australia, Belgium, Burma, Canada, Ceylon, China (Taiwan), Czechoslovakia, Britain, Finland, France, Germany, Hawaii, The Netherlands, Hongkong, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea (South), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan (East), the Philippines, Sweden, Thailand, the U.S.A., the U.S.S.R., and Vietnam.

(d) About 250 delegates from abroad are attending the conference.

OIL AND GAS ON COASTS

*394. SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

ia) what progress has so far been made in the search for oil and natural gas on (i) the West Coast; and (ii) the East Coast; and

(b) where the prospects of discovering oil and natural gas on the Coasts of India are promising.'

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): (a) Geological surveys of sedimentary rocks in west and east coasts of India are almost complete. After gravity and magnetic surveys in some of these areas, seismic surveys are being carried out in the West Bengal and Cauvery basins and in the coastal and offshore areas of Coromandal, Cutch and Surat-Cambay.

One structural and one deep well have been drilled in the Cauvery basin.

(b) The coastal area of Cutch and the Surat Cambay area on the West Coast and the Cauvery and Bengal basins on the East Coast, are considered to be promising.

DEPUTATION OF HOTELIERS

•395. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a deputation of hoteliers recently waited on the Minister of State for Home Affairs to represent the inconveniences experienced by foreign tourists;

(b) the demands made by the deputations; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The deputation urged that the recommendation of the Study Team on Prohibition for a separate room in selected hotels where alcoholic beverages and meals could be served to