

- (ii) Maintenance schedule be drawn for S & T works;
- (iii) The staff to be imparted better training and skills; and
- (iv) Adoption of improved information technologies.

(d) Action on those lines was already being taken by the Government in a planned and progressive manner.

(e) Does not arise.

Inspection Report of Land and Development Office

2587. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH :

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1902 dated 14th August, 1995 and state:

(a) whether the information collected by L & DO has been analysed and charges worked out as per guidelines; and

(b) if so, the time by which it will be laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI R.K. DHAWAN) : (a) and (b). The guidelines relating to the subject have subsequently been revised. Based on these revised guidelines the requisite information has been called for from the parties, and the charges will be worked out on this basis. Information required in this regard will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in three months.

Expedition to Antarctica

2588. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to cut short the stay of the teams of Antarctica Expedition from 15 months to 6 months in view of long separation of team members from their family members and consequent strains on their mental health;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons who have died during their stay in Antarctica and how long their bodies were kept there; and

(d) the amount of compensation paid to the kith and kin of the deceased who died during the expeditions to Antarctica?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Four persons of the IX Expedition had died during their stay in Antarctica on 8th January 1990 and their bodies were kept in Antarctica for five weeks.

(d) Rupees five lakhs each was paid as insurance money to the kith and kin of the deceased who died during the expedition to Antarctica.

Rail Link

2589. SHRI SUKHENDU KHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Shantiniketan (Bholpur) has not been connected with national capital till now;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). There is no proposal at present, to introduce a direct train linking Bolpur with New Delhi due to operational and resource constraints and lack of traffic justification.

[Translation]

Government Accommodation in Bihar

2590. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Central Government quarters of type I, II, III & IV in Patna and Ranchi, Bihar;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the number of quarters;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI R.K. DHAWAN) : (a) There are no general pool residential quarters in Patna and Ranchi in Bihar.

(b) Presently, there is no proposal under consideration for construction of general pool residential accommodation in these two cities.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.