

Malpractices at Reservation Counters in IRCA Building in New Delhi

496. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite introduction of the computerisation of railway reservation and other checks and counter-checks, the nexus between the railway reservation staff and the travel agents continue to operate at the main Railway Reservation Centres particularly at IRCA building in New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether on a surprise check conducted by the Anti-corruption Branch of the Central Bureau of Investigation during the last week of September, 1995 at IRCA reservation counters; a substantial amount of unaccounted and undeclared cash, reservation slips and the tickets reserved in fictitious names were recovered from almost all the counters;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railway authorities to eliminate such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) A few cases have come to notice.

(b) and (c). In a check conducted by Central Bureau of Investigation on 28.9.95, excess cash, booked railway tickets and requisition slips duly filled in were recovered from the possession of Reservation Clerks on three counters.

(d) Frequent surprise checks are being organised to prevent such malpractices. During 1994-95 and in the current year upon September 1995, 366 checks were conducted by Vigilance and Commercial Departments in Delhi Area including IRCA Reservation Complex. Disciplinary action has been initiated against 292 railway employees. 181 touts and Travel Agents were apprehended.

Naval Academy at Ezhimala

497. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMCHANDRAN :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any central team has visited the proposed Naval Academy at Ezhimala, Kerala recently;

(b) if so, the details of the visit and whether any decision has been taken to expedite the work on the project;

(c) if so, whether the Government of Kerala has extended full cooperation to the Union Government for the speedy completion of the project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) when the policy decision was taken to set up this Academy and the estimated cost of project at that time; and

(f) the reason, if any, for delay in implementing the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (f). The Defence Secretary, accompanied by Senior Naval Officers, visited the site on 4th November, 1995 to review the progress of setting up infrastructure being provided by the Kerala State Government. Cabinet have recently sanctioned the setting up of the Naval Academy at Ezhimala at a cost of Rs. 166.94 crores. Construction phase will start immediately.

Construction phase requirement of water and electricity supply are being provided by the State Government. Work on the five periphery roads along the site is also progressing satisfactorily. There has been very good cooperation in this by the State Government.

An in principle decision to set up a permanent Naval Academy at Ezhimala was taken by the Government in May, 1982. Since a detailed Project Report had not been prepared then, no cost estimates of the project could be given at that time.

The time taken for establishing infrastructure facilities after handing over possession of the land in 1984 and the resource crunch 1987 resulting in change of priorities in allocation of funds in favour of operational schemes, have contributed to the delay in early implementation of the Project.

[Translation]

Central Government Hospitals

498. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM :
SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :