

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) An "Agreement on the establishment of a Joint Liner Service between ports of Black Sea (Novorossiysk) and ports of India" was signed in Moscow on 11 February, 1997.

(b) The Agreement provides for establishment of a Joint Liner Service between the basic ports of Novorossiysk and Mumbai and the optional ports of Constanza, Varna, Bourgas, Ilyichevsk, Odessa and Ust-Dunaisk in the Black Sea and Chennai, Kochi and Calcutta in India. By this Agreement, India and Russia are to deploy one or two vessels for carriage of conventional cargoes and containers, and have also provisionally agreed to provide a monthly sailing in each direction. The Agreement also provides for reciprocal privileges to both Novorossiysk Shipping Company and the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., including for port services in India and Russia.

(c) The Agreement became effective upon its signature on 11 February 1997; the operation of the Joint Liner Service is expected to commence from June, 1997.

[English]

Centrally Protected Forts in Rajasthan

2284. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received a request for development of Centrally Protected Forts in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (e) The centrally protected Forts in Rajasthan are maintained, preserved and environmentally developed as per their requirements based on archaeological norms and availability of funds.

National Sports Policy

2285. SHRI SYDIAH KOTA :

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new national sports policy has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, when the Government propose to finalise it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) to (c) A draft New National Sports Policy has been formulated. It has been circulated to all the concerned organisations inviting their comments and is yet to be finalised. Its main features are as under :-

- (1) Broad-basing of Sports;
- (2) Creation of Sports Infrastructure;
- (3) Mobilisation of Mass-media in introducing a Sports Culture in the country;
- (4) Achieving excellence at the National and International levels;
- (5) Scientific back-up to sports persons;
- (6) Training and Development of Coaches, Sports Scientists, Judges, Refrees and Umpires;
- (7) Incentives to Sports persons;
- (8) Resource Mobilisation for Sports; and
- (9) Easy access to International quality sports equipment.

Indian Museum, Calcutta

2286. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide fully air conditioned facilities to the Indian Museum, Calcutta;

(b) whether it is also a fact that experts have suggested that air conditioning of all the buildings of the Museum is necessary for proper conservation and preservation;

(c) when it is likely to be taken up;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken for proper maintenance and care of the National Museum?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (d) The Government do not have any such proposal under consideration since neither any request has been received from the Indian Museum for providing air conditioning facilities for the full building of the Indian Museum nor any such suggestions have been made by any of the experts of the High Powered Building