

Orissa with a view to remove the education and scientific backwardness;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Except for the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Assam, it is not proposed to set up any other IIT elsewhere in the country at present.

[English]

Reply to Letter from Members of Parliament

4249. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of HUMAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, does not acknowledge and reply to letters from Member of Parliament; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the government for the immediate replying of letters from Members of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha

Leasing out Bangaram Island of Lakshadweep

4250. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Tourism resort located in Bangaram Island of Lakshadweep has been leased out to a hotel group;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main terms and conditions of the lease entered into in this regard;

(c) the period of lease and the date of its termination/renewal;

(d) the benefits accrued to the Lakshadweep administration so far on this account; and

(e) if not, the remedial steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following are the main terms and conditions of the lease deed executed between the hotel group called M/s. Casino and 'Sports' which is the nodal agency in Lakshadweep for promotion of tourism:-

(i) M/s. Casino has to pay a royalty at the rate of Rs. 1,20,000/ payable in advance in quarterly instalments.

(ii) M/s Casino has also to pay rent calculated at the rate of 16.67 per cent of the gross turn over payable in quarterly instalments subject to a minimum of Rs. 7,50,000/- per annum.

- (iii) M/s. Casino has to ensure that its employees and resort guests and visitors comply with the environmental guidelines prescribed from time to time.
- (iv) M/s. Casino has to provide 30 per cent of employment to the local people in the employment avenues available in resort and at any time the employment of the local people shall not be less than 28 persons.
- (v) In case M/s. Casino opt to continue the lease arrangement after the expiry of the period of the existing lease deed they may apply for the renewal of lease suggesting their terms and conditions at least 6 months before the expiry of the existing lease.

(c) The period of lease is for 5 years from the first day of September 1988 to 31st day of August, 1993.

(d) Leasing of Bangaram Tourist Resort has resulted in Valuable foreign exchange earnings, direct employment to 28 locals, indirect employment to those who are engaged in the supply of materials and operating boats from Agatti and economic development of people of Agatti to some extent.

(e) Does not arise.

Ecology Destruction in Lakshadweep

4251. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain items of ecological importance like Corals etc. are being taken out of the lagoons of Bangaram island of Lakshadweep by tourists;

(b) whether removing of items of ecological importance is banned in Lakshadweep; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken for this systematic destruction of natural beauty and look of natural sea wealth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No instance of complaint about removal of corals etc. or of other items of ecological importance by tourists at Bangaram Island has been reported.

(b) Removal of items such as corals by tourists and other which would damage the marine eco-system, has been totally banned in the Lakshadweep.

(c) The gazette notification issued by the Ministry to conserve coastal areas of the country, inter alia bans the use of corals and sand from the beaches for construction and other purposes. The dredging and underwater blasting in and around the coral formations will also not be permitted. All development along the coastal stretch will have to be in accordance with the stipulations of the said notification.

The Lakshadweep Administration has acquired boats for environmental protection and environmental wardens have been appointed, who patrol the lagoons when tourists are around to ensure that they do not remove corals and other objects from the beaches and lagoons which may ultimately have a detrimental effect on the marine ecosystem.

Functioning of R.P. Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, New Delhi

4252. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: