

Atlanta Olympics, 1996

3472. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been discriminated in sending the Government media in Atlanta Olympics, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. From Doordarshan, an 8-member official team was deputed for coverage of Atlanta Olympic Games, 1996. In the case of All India Radio, although Voice of America provided a daily capsule of 15 minutes in Hindi covering important events of the day free of cost, Shri Jasdev Singh, non-official commentator, was also deputed to Atlanta for providing Telephone Voice Casts in Hindi which was broadcast daily during the period of games.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Tourist Places in Orissa

3473. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the places of tourist interest in Orissa which are on National and International tourist map; and

(b) the details of the financial assistance provided by the Union Government for the development of tourist spots during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) The National Action Plan for tourism in 1992 had identified Puri-Bhubaneswar-Konark for intensive development. Details regarding these places are available in the publicity literature brought out by the Department of tourism.

(b) The details of financial assistance sanctioned to the State of Orissa for the last three years is provided below :

(Rs. in lakhs)

1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
101.52	166.31	108.86

Pension Scheme

3474. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have tried to popularise the new pension scheme through seminars etc. during July 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the opinion expressed by some of the Trade Unions in this regard; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) The Central Government had not organised any Seminar on new pension scheme in July, 1996. However, earlier several meetings were held with the Central Trade Union Organisations. They had suggested *inter-alia* removal of discrimination between married sons and married daughters and between remarrying widows and remarrying widowers, extension of the scheme benefits to the employees drawing wages beyond Rs. 5000/- per month, provision for commutation, reduction in discounting rate for early payment of pension, provision of ensuring pension payment in default cases, application of the scheme to the subscribers who did not join the Family Pension Scheme, 1971, refund of family pension-related withdrawal benefit in the case of exemption and coverage of piece-rated workers. These suggestions have since been examined and on 28.2.1996 a notification was issued carrying out necessary amendments in the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995. Suggestions like providing individual option, linking pension with the consumer's price index and giving pension as third benefit have not been found actuarially feasible for acceptance.

Killings of Tourists in Kashmir

3475. DR. M.P. JAISWAL :
SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recent killings of Tourists by militants in Kashmir has resulted in drastic fall in tourists arrival in valley;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of tourists visited Kashmir valley during the current year, so far;

(d) whether the tourists on arrival in valley are briefed about Security instructions;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to the information available from the State Government as many as 5744 tourists visited Kashmir Valley during January to July 1996.

(d) to (f). A Tourist Advisory has been issued by the State Government and the same is being displayed at various tourist entry places in the State such as Airport and Tourist Reception Centre.

Availability of Sugarcane

3476. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sugar mills currently operating in Uttar Pradesh are getting about 33 per cent of the total available sugarcane;

(b) whether this percentage is less than the national average;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to bring the existing percentage of availability of sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh at par with the national average?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c). Historically, drawal rate of sugarcane by the sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh has been on the low side largely because of the presence of a large number of gur and khandsari units in the State. Based on the advance estimates of sugarcane production for 1995-96 and the quantity of cane crushed by the sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh upto 30.6.1996 for the season 1995-96 the drawal of sugarcane by the factories worked out to 43.8% as against the national average of 62.5%.

(d) In order to increase the percentage of crushing of sugarcane by the sugar factories in Uttar Pradesh, the Government is closely monitoring the implementation of unimplemented letters of intent granted for establishment of new sugar factories and expansion in the existing sugar factories & has granted letters of intent for establishment of more new sugar factories and expansion in the existing sugar factories.

12.01 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the National Institute for the Orthopaedically handicapped, Calcutta for 1994-95 alongwith statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers etc.

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta for the year 1994-95.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT.363/96]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : The post of Director is vacant for the last so many years. As the hon. Minister lays papers on the Table, I want a clarification on that.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I will fill up within fifteen days.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : That is an assurance.

Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of Vayudoot Ltd., New Delhi for 1990-91 alongwith statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Vayudoot Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91.

(ii) Annual Report of the Vayudoot Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT.364/96]