

(a) whether Government are aware that ISCON has undertaken a Padayatra of 4000 Kms. covering ten States right from Dwarka in Gujarat to Mayapur in West Bengal since 2nd September, 1984;

(b) what this international organisation aims at in organising padayatras on such a gigantic scale in India;

(c) the sources of its funds;

(d) whether any other religious society, institutions or groups or individuals are connected with this endeavour of ISCON in any way; and

(e) if so, the names of the associates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ISKCON has organised Padayatra to commemorate the 500th Birth Anniversary of Chaitanya Maha Prabhu and also to popularise Krishna Consciousness among the general public.

(c) As per reports the sources of its funds are fee charged from the life members of the ISKCON, income received by selling 'Hare Krishna' literature, donations received from the private individuals and organisations. It also receives considerable amount from its Headquarters at Los Angeles (USA).

(d) and (e) As per reports no other religious societies, institutions or groups or individuals are connected with this endeavour of ISKCON in organising the Padayatra.

#### Settlement of Sri Lanka's Ethnic Problem

1278. SHRI G.G. SWELL :  
SHRI AMAL DATTA :  
SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Sri Lanka have sent fresh proposals for settling the question of Tamils in Sri Lanka through its High Commissioner in New Delhi;

(b) whether Government have considered these proposals and found them to be a step forward from the past position; and

(c) whether as a result Government now propose to take a new initiative to bring about an amicable settlement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Varadarajaswami Gudi Irrigation,  
Andhra Pradesh

1279. SHRI M. SUBBA REDDY :  
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Varadarajaswami Gudi Irrigation Project for cleaning of forests land in Atmakur Taluga in Andhra Pradesh is under Government's consideration;

(b) if so, details of the Project;

(c) whether the project has been pending for a long time;

(d) whether cleaning of forests land will be limited to a bare minimum of 20 hectares only; and

(e) if so, whether the Project will be cleared by Government at the earliest since Andhra Pradesh Government has already incurred an expenditure of almost Rs. 30 lakhs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND  
FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a)  
Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). The proposal received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh

in February, 1981, for release of 260 ha. of forest land for the Varadarajaswami Gudi Irrigation Project in Kurnool District was considered by the Central Government and not agreed to. The State Government sent a revised proposal in August, 1982, in which the requirement of forest land was reduced to 200 ha. This revised proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee set up under Section 3 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and it was found necessary to have the project cleared first by the Central Department of Environment from the environment angle. The Department of environment constituted an expert group for this purpose. On the basis of the recommendations of the expert group, the Department of Environment recommended in January, 1983, that the irrigation project at the proposed site should not be taken up considering the importance of preserving the wildlife habitat. The area coming under submergence forms part of Nagarjunasagar—Srisailem Wildlife Sanctuary, which has also been constituted into a Tiger Reserve.

Before taking a final view in the matter, an inter-departmental team consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Director (Tiger Project) and Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Government of Andhra Pradesh, was constituted to carry out a site inspection of the area and to submit its recommendations. The team recommended the lowering of the height of the dam and the release of only 160 ha. of forest land subject to certain safeguards, including the shifting of a village to a place outside the sanctuary area. The State Government has been requested to initiate action for the relocation of the village. The State Government has also been requested, to examine and report immediately the implications of lowering the height of the dam. As soon as the required information is made available by the State Government, the case will be decided.

**Regularisation of Daily Rated Clerks  
in Central Passport Offices**

1280. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA :  
SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of daily rated clerks working in central Passport Offices;

(b) whether Government have decided to regularise such employees as have fulfilled the conditions for absorption in regular employment including those who have become over aged; and

(c) if so, the procedure being adopted for such regularisation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) :

(a) 307 daily rated lower division clerks are working in 19 Passport Offices all over India under the Central Passport Organisation, of the Ministry of External Affairs.

(b) and (c). It has since been decided to regularise such employees, (including those who were overage at the time of their initial appointment or have since become overage) who qualify in the Department Competitive Examination (including typing test) scheduled to be held on the 24th March, 1985 at 5 centres viz Delhi, Lucknow, Bombay, Madras and Cochin. This will also be subject to availability of regular vacancies of Lower Division Clerks, Services of those Daily Rated Clerks who do not qualify in the above mentioned examination as well as the typewriting test will have to be terminated accordingly.

**Free Tickets to Foreign/Indian  
Journalists**

1281. SHRI SANAT KUMAR  
MANDAL :  
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme or guidelines laid down for issuing of free tickets to foreign/Indian journalists and their families by Air-India, if so, the broad outlines thereof;