

(a) whether any order has been issued to the employees of the Central Government to intimate before the end of July, 1985 regarding opting for pension ;

(b) whether this order has been made applicable to the employees of Railways, Posts and Telegraphs, Nationalised Banks and other Central Government Departments and offices ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) whether any objections were raised by the employees organisation in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) order has been issued on 6.6.1985 by the Government allowing Central Government employees on Contributory Provident Fund benefits to exercise option to come over to pensionable establishment within a period of six months from the date of issue of the order.

(b) and (c). This order is applicable only to Central Government employees, including Railways and Posts & Telegraphs, subscribing to Contributory Provident Fund and not to the employees of Nationalised Banks.

(d) No objections have been received from any of the employees' organisations in this regard.

Declaration of Shanidev Temple as a Tourist Centre

249. SHRI KAMMODILAS JATAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) Whether 'Shanidev temple' of Hindus in Morena (MP) is the only temple of its kind in the country ;

(b) whether it is a religious as well as a tourist centre ;

(c) if so, whether Government would provide proper facilities after declaring it as tourist centre ; and

(d) the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) :

(a) and (b). Morena in M.P. with its Shanidev Temple is only a religious place and not a tourist centre. It is reported that there are other temples dedicated to God Shanidev.

(c) and (d). The Department has not received any such proposal from the Madhya Pradesh Government. Such proposal, if received, will be favourably considered.

Proposal to Raise Upper Age Limit for Backward Classes in Competitive Examinations

250. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether wards of backward classes and poor people are finding it difficult to appear in various competitive examination as they complete their education at a later age due to financial and other constraints ; and

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to raise the upper age limit for the benefit of all categories of applicants with a view to give a fair change to such people ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) No such difficulty has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Dances at Indian Festival at Paris

251. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of parties that participated in the Indian Festival at Paris in June, 1985 ;

(b) the types of Dance systems from India that were performed in Paris ;