

tourism, efforts will be made by the Department to create facilities at beach resorts including permission to land charters at Goa and Trivandrum. Efforts will also be made to promote trekking the mountains and provide introduction of white water sports. The Department is in touch with the State Governments/Union Territories for taking up the above schemes. As part of its policy to promote winter sports the Indian Institute of Skiing and Mountaineering at Gulmarg sponsors winter ski courses during winter and water ski courses in summer months.

Harassment to Foreign Tourists at the Airports

2465. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether complaints of harassment of foreign tourists at the airports have come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, whether the complaints have been investigated by Government; and

(c) the measures proposed to facilitate expeditious completion of security checks and other formalities in international flights ?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government proposes to facilitate expeditious completion of security checks and other formalities utilising scanners, metal detectors and other equipments as well as simplify procedures etc. without jeopardising security aspects.

Conversion of Forest Research Institute, Dehradun into International Institute

2466. DR. K.G. ADIYODI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether International Rice Research

Institute, Manila has offered assistance to convert the Forest Research Institute Dehradun, into an international institute; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Artists to Festivals of India

2467. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether artists sent for the Festival of India were paid their normal professional charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the objectives expected to be achieved through this Festival ?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The artists sent to Paris for the inauguration of Festival of India France were paid as under :

(i) Rehearsal allowance : Rs. 1000 for a group upto 10 persons, Rs. 2000 for a group of more than 10 persons.

(ii) personal equipment allowance : Rs. 500 per artist.

(iii) Renewal of costumes and care of musical instruments allowance : Rs. 2000 for a group upto 10 persons, Rs. 3000 for more than 10 persons.

(iv) Rs. 1000 against loss of professional earnings in India per person.