

during these expeditions and the factors responsible for their deaths ; and

(b) whether Government have ascertained the causes of their death and taken measures to avoid such accidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN WELFARE (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

Statement

According to the information available, the only Indian expedition which attempted to scale the Everest during the year was put up by the Army Adventure Foundation, a voluntary organisation registered under the Registration of Societies Act, 1960. The expedition consisted of 33 members. Five members of the team died during the expedition. One climber died due to a fall on 7.10.85 and four others died due to a combination of exhaustion, dehydration and blizzard conditions on the night of 10/11th October, 1985.

2. Adventure as a sport implies a high risk factor especially in mountaineering. Participation in such activities is on purely voluntary basis. Mountaineering expeditions, particularly those attempting to scale the Everest are expected to include persons who are highly skilled and are also fully aware of the risks involved. In such voluntary endeavours involving high risk, the participants are expected to take the necessary measures for their safety themselves.

Inquiry into Disturbances in National Book Fair 1985 in Patna

665. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry have received any memorandum/letter for conducting an inquiry into the disturbances created in the National Book Fair organised in Patna in the beginning of October, 1985 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the inauguration of this fair organised by National Book Trust was postponed by one day and if so, the reason thereof ;

(c) whether many reports have been published about corruption, favouritism and irregularities prevailing in the Trust : and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to conduct a high level inquiry into these matters and appoint a new Chairman as early as possible ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The inauguration of the National Book Fair was postponed by one day. The Chairman National Book Trust has appointed a committee to inquire into the reasons for the postponement of the National Book Fair held at Patna in October, 1985.

(c) and (d) Reports have appeared in Newspapers making critical observations about the working of the National Book Trust. The activities and programmes of the Trust are reviewed by the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees periodically. The Government, therefore, does not propose to appoint a Committee to inquire into the affairs of N.B.T. A new Chairman of the Trust is likely to be appointed shortly.

[English]

Facilities for Male Patients at Sucheta Kripalani Hospital

666. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the members of the Resident Doctors Association and the students of the Lady Harding Medical College and associated hospitals, New Delhi have been demanding provision of facilities for male patients at the Sucheta Kripalani Hospital and ensuring minimum requirements of a medical college hospital like proper casualty, emergency ward, intensive care unit, coronary care unit, blood bank and safe water supply ;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken note of the problems ; and

(c) the action contemplated in the matter ?