

(b) whether any review has been made by the Government regarding the performance of these offices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA):
(a) There are 18 Govt. of India Tourist offices operating abroad for promotion of Tourism in India.

(b) and (c). The performance of the Tourist offices abroad is being appraised from time to time with a view to ensuring that they work efficiently and effectively. The review of the performance of the offices is a continuing process.

Benefits to Poor People

1867. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to strengthen the public distribution system;

(b) if so, the details of the items likely to be sold under this system to the poor people in rural areas at half the market price;

(c) whether the Government propose to make available more items like tea leaf, soap, pulses, iodised salt and Janta cloth under the public distribution system; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) and (b). The Government proposes to streamline the Public Distribution System (PDS) with its focus on the poor. The details are being worked out in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations

(c) and (d). No, Sir. However States/UTs are reported to be distributing items like tea, pulses, iodised salt etc. through Public Distribution System according to local needs and preferences

Distribution of Essential Commodities

1868. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN :

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA :

SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the norms fixed for per unit distribution of essential commodities like wheat, rice, sugar and edible

oil in rural and urban areas under the public distribution system:

(b) whether there is any disparity regarding distribution of essential commodities in rural and urban areas:

(c) if so, the details thereof, commodity-wise alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to remove the disparity?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :
(a) to (d). The norms fixed for per unit distribution of essential commodities like wheat, rice and edible oil for rural and urban areas are decided by the States/UTs themselves as part of their operational responsibility. For Sugar the allocation to States are being made at the rate of 425 gm. per head per month based on the 1991 census figures. The sale of issue of the commodities may vary from State to State and within a State depending on local needs and conditions. In case there is any disparity regarding distribution of essential commodities, it is for the State Government/UT Administrations to remove the same.

Workers in Marble Mines

1869. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the approximate number of workers engaged in the marble mining in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government propose to bring some legislation for providing higher amount of wages and creating better working conditions for them; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) There are about 14,109 workers employed in Marble Mines in Rajasthan.

(b) No, Sir. The wages and working conditions of the workers employed in Marble Mines are governed by the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and other relevant labour laws.

(c) Does not arise

New Telephone Exchanges in Kerala

1870. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the telephone exchanges proposed for 1995-96 in Kerala have started functioning;

(b) if not, the reason therefor; and

(c) the names of district where the exchanges have not yet started functioning?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Out of 53 Telephone

Exchanges planned for 1995-96 in Kerala. 18 Exchanges could not be commissioned due to non availability of building/equipment.

(c) The names of districts where the Exchanges have not yet started functioning, are Cannanore, Kasaragod, Wynad, Trichur, Ernakulam, Kottayam, Quilon and Trivendrum.

Telecasting of News in Kannada

1871. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bangalore Doordarshan is telecasting news in Kannada during morning;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to telecast the news in Kannada in morning?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). It has not been found possible to telecast a kannada news bulletin in the morning from Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore due to constraints of resources such as manpower, hardware and other infrastructural facilities.

Tourism in Madhya Pradesh

1872. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the proposals approved and being implemented to encourage tourism in Madhya Pradesh during the year 1995-96; and

(b) the amount sanctioned for each of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) Promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/Union Territory Governments. However the Department of Tourism, Government of India extends financial assistance to the State/Union Territory Governments on the basis of specific project proposals received based on their merits, interse priority and availability of funds. No proposal was received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh during 1995-96.

Dead Body in Indian Airlines Aircraft

1873. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news item captioned, "Body left to stink in IA aircraft" appearing in The Hindustan Times, New Delhi, Dates July 5, 1996.

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the action taken against the Indian Airlines officials involved in the incident; and

(d) the measures taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A coffin on flight from Ahmedabad which landed at Delhi on the night of 29.6.96 was off-loaded next morning. One Senior Traffic Superintendent, two Traffic Assistants and three Loaders have been placed under suspension. Indian Airlines have also initiated disciplinary action against the concerned staff.

(d) Detailed guidelines have been issued by Indian Airlines to all concerned to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future.

[Translation]

Pending projects in Delhi

1874. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some welfare projects of National Capital Territory of Delhi are pending with the Government for approval at present;

(b) if so, the project-wise details thereof as on date and the date from which these projects are pending with/under consideration of the Government;

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard;

(d) the estimated cost thereof; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE BALWANT SINGH (SHRI B.S. RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, sir.

(b) and (d). Reply to (a) and (d) is given in the enclosed *statement*.

(c) The delay in desposal of these projects is due to inter-ministerial consultations, consultation with the Planning Commission and with the Internal finance of the Ministry of Welfare.

(e) No time frame can be given at this stage.

STATEMENT

The details of the welfare projects of the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi pending for approval of the Ministry of Welfare, Government of India, are as follows:-

1. (a) Merit Scholarship to college students belonging to SCs/STs. Cost Rs. 200 Lakhs	- Under consideration since December, '94.
(b) Pro-Examination Coaching Centre at Dilshad Garden. Cost Rs. 10 lakhs	- Under consideration since November, 1995