

Deputation of Officers of All India Services to Delhi Municipal Corporation

4164. SHRI RAM SAMUJHAWAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the particulars of Officers of the various All-India Services such as Indian Administrative Service and Indian Revenue Service at present on deputation to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, the posts held and pay (including Deputation or Special Pay) and allowances drawn by them; and

(b) their initial tenure and in which of the cases it had been extended once, twice and thrice and the reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI-MATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 1093/85]

(b) The recruitment regulations of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi provide for varying tenures ranging from 3 to 5 years in respect of different posts as indicated in the statement at annexure. In no case the tenure has been extended beyond prescribed period.

Package Tours to attract Foreign Tourists

4165. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new form of selling package tours have been decided to be operated when a 'travel mart' will be set up by Indian Tour Operators Association in a bid to attract foreign tourists to the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b). A "Travel Mart" is a forum which enables buyers and sellers/suppliers in travel trade to come together and negotiate travel package deals. The Indian Association of Tour Operators with the help of the Department of Tourism had invited over 40 tour operators/wholesalers for such a travel mart held at New Delhi in the first week of

April, 1985. Business negotiations conducted at this forum are likely to generate greater tourist traffic to India.

Registration for Mining in Ocean

4166. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is an applicant for registration for mining in the Ocean as a pioneer investor and clearance from the law of the Sea Commission is awaited; and

(b) if so, full details thereof including the particulars of mining ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Yes Sir, India as a pioneer investor, has filed an application with the Preparatory Commission of the International Sea-bed Authority and of the Law of the Sea Tribunal, for registration of a mine site in the Central Indian Ocean. The decision of the Preparatory Commission is awaited.

(b) After a survey of nearly 4 million square kilometres in the Indian Ocean, two mining sites, each of 150,000 sq. km. have been identified. These sites fully meet the standards which have been prescribed internationally, such as, the density of nodules per square metre and the copper, nickel and cobalt contents of the nodules. Research and Development work at the mining sites is going on smoothly.

Elephants Killed for Ivory Tusks

4167. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether elephants are killed for extraction of ivory tusks :

(b) the action proposed to be taken to protect elephants from being killed on a large scale; and

(c) the number of elephants killed in 1983-84 and 1984-85 and value of the ivory lost in terms of Rupees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) and (b). Stray cases of poaching of wild elephant's for ivory occur from time to time. The steps taken to protect the wild elephant are given in the attached statement.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

Statement

(1) Full legal protection is provided by including elephant in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(2) Elephant is also included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) under which international trade in the species or its products is strictly regulated.

(3) The habitats of elephant are being protected in the form of several national parks and sanctuaries throughout the species range of distribution in the country.

(4) Status and ecological studies are being conducted which would form the basis for a long-term conservation strategy for the species.

(5) The setting up of corridors for the free movement of elephants between disjointed and fragmented habitats has been suggested to the States concerned.

(6) The concerned States and Union Territories are being advised from time to time to take effective steps to control poaching by strengthening their protection and enforcement efforts. Central financial assistance is also being provided for this purpose.

Payment of fare for 400 KM for Availing Home Town Concession by Central Government Employees

4168. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government employees have to pay the train fare for the first 400 Kms while availing of the home town concession;

(b) if so, the rationale behind it;

(c) whether Government propose to waive this condition; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

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) and (b). The scheme of LTC was originally drawn up in 1956 to provide travel facilities to Central Government employees whose home towns were far away from their places of posting. Consequently it was considered necessary to limit the concession only to those who came from places more than 250 miles (now 400 Kms) (160 Kms in the case of Group 'D' employees) away from their places of posting. Further, in order to ensure that there was no discrimination against those whose Home Towns were within 250 miles (400 Kms.) and, therefore, did not get any travel concession, it was provided that those whose homes were beyond 400 Kms (160 Kms in the case of Group 'D' employees) from their headquarters should themselves bear the fares for the first 400 Kms. (160 Kms. in the case of Group 'D' employees).

(c) and (d). A suggestion has been received in this regard but no decision has yet been taken.

Visit of British Prime Minister to India

4169. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that during recent visit of the British Prime Minister to India the activities of extremists were discussed; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India's concern at the increasing anti-Indian activities of extremist elements in Britain was conveyed to the British Prime Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher. She appreciated India's concern and said that Britain would not allow its hospitality to be abused by extremist elements. She also