

Declining in Output of Nuclear Power

687. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether it is a fact that nuclear power output has declined sharply during the first two quarters of 1982-83?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE, ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): There has been a decline in nuclear power output during the period.

Restricted Areas in Sikkim

688. SHRI P. M. SUBBA:

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pemayonchi area, part of South Sikkim and whole of North Sikkim will come under restricted entry areas;

(b) if so, the use of maintaining big tourist lodges under these restricted areas;

(c) how many such tourists lodges come under these areas;

(d) the total cost of these lodges;

(e) whether Government have thought of an alternative use of these lodges; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) to (f). The whole of Sikkim is a protected area under the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958. Foreign tourists are, however, permitted liberally to visit places of tourist interest in Sikkim like Gangtok, Rumtok and Phodang and to trek in the Zongri area. There is only one tourist lodge at Pemayangtse (not Pemayonchi), which is not open to foreign tourists but is available only for domestic tourists.

Permits for Visiting Darjeeling

689. SHRI NIREN GHOSH:

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK:

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether permits are required for foreign tourists to visit Darjeeling and North Bengal;

(b) if so, whether as a result thereof, tourism has declined in these areas;

(c) if so, whether permit system would be withdrawn; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) to (d). Five Northern Districts of West Bengal viz. Darjeeling, Cooch Behar, Malda, Jalpaiguri and West Dinajpur fall within restricted areas under the Foreigners (Restricted Area) Order, 1963. Foreign tourists travelling upto Bagdogra and back by air are allowed to visit without permits Darjeeling town and some neighbouring places like Sandakphu and Phalut, Tiger Hill, Lebong Race Course, Jorebungalow, Ghoom and Kurseong town of tourist interest for a period upto 15 days. Tourists who intend to proceed to Darjeeling by mode of travel other than air are required to obtain restricted area permits from any of the Indian Missions abroad, Foreigners Regional Registration Officers and Immigration Officers at the airports at Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay and Madras, besides the Government of West Bengal (Home Department). Similarly permits are liberally granted for visiting Jaldapara Games Sanctuary in West Bengal. This system has been in vogue for a number of years and it has not affected tourism in these areas. There is no proposal to withdraw the existing system. The restrictions under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963 will have to continue in the national interest.