

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

World Wide Shortage of Natural Rubber

4105. SHRI K. PRANDHANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is likely to be a world-wide shortage of the present supplies of natural rubber in 1990s' ; and

(b) if so, what action Government are taking to tap cultivation of alternative natural rubber sources?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) no world-wide shortage of natural rubber is anticipated in the near future.

(b) the Government have taken various measures through the Rubber Board to increase natural rubber production, viz, integrated subsidy-cum-credit scheme for accelerating new planting and replanting, free advisory and extension support, development of high yielding rubber clones through research and development work etc. The efforts are being taken to bring in more non-traditional area under rubber cultivation.

Vayudoot Service for Puri and Konarak to promote Tourism

4106. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken so far to promote tourism in Orissa particularly Puri, the pilgrim centre, Konarak, the Sun-temple and other places in the State ;

(b) whether the desirability of bringing Puri on the Vayudoot map, which will also link it up with Konarak, has ever been considered in view of great tourist potential; if so, the outcome thereof ; and

(c) if not, whether he will consider this facility of Direct air-travel being provided from the tourists' point of view ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) Plans are afoot for setting up a 50 room hotel at the Beach of Puri as a joint venture of ITDC and the Orissa Tourism Development Corporation at an estimated cost of Rs. 1. 34 crores. Development of a sea-side Beach Complex at Konarak in the Private Sector is also in the offing.

(b) and (c) So far introduction of a Vayudoot flight to Puri has not been considered. Rourkela was the only station in Orissa included in the list of 23 stations initially approved in principle for operation by Vayudoot. Vayudoot services to Rourkela have already been introduced. Introduction of air services to Puri, Konarak and other stations in Orissa will depend upon the economic viability of operations, the availability of infrastructure and the acquisition of suitable aircraft.

Helicopter service connecting Srinagar with other Tourist resorts in Jammu and Kashmir

4107. SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are envisaging any scheme to connect Srinagar with helicopter services with important tourist resorts of Jammu and Kashmir State like Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Amar Nath Cave, Sonamarg, Bhaderwah, Kishtwar, Doda, Poonch, Kargil and Leh to facilitate and make easier tours of the tourists to such beautiful hilly spots some of which are otherwise separated by steep hilly tracts and connected by seasonal and hazardous roads ; and

(b) whether some special air services are proposed to be started during summer (peak) season and winter season to boost up winter sports in Kashmir ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b) No such proposal is presently under consideration of Government.

Production of Engineering Goods in West Bengal

4108. SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) how many crores of rupees worth of engineering goods are required for the annual production of the ordnance factories in India ;

(b) what percentage of the total sum spent on engineering equipment needed in such production, is supplied from the Eastern Region of the country ; and

(c) whether any serious effort has been made to utilise to a greater extent the capacity of the firms in that area, specially in West Bengal which has the infrastructural facilities for manufacturing ordnance equipment but are now languishing for lack of orders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) to (c) Ordnance Factories purchase (i) Raw materials, (ii) Half Wroughts like rolled, forged and pressed items, and (iii) components and sub-assemblies etc. for the production of Defence stores. Being essentially captive units of the services, the requirements vary as per the actual production programme. Subject to their meeting the requirements regarding prices, delivery schedules and quality assurance all efforts are made to obtain these requirements on the basis of established procedures.

It is not in public interest to disclose further details in the matter.

Deaths of Mules due to Contaminated Hay

4109. SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether mules, the vital mode of transportation in mountainous border areas, are dying of a disease caused by contaminated hay ;

if so, whether the feed-stock at the supply centre in Delhi Cantonment has been found to be contaminated by deadly fungus ; and

(c) what led to such contamination ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) and (c) No feed-stock is kept at Supply Centre in Delhi Cantonment. As such, the question of its contamination does not arise.

Medical Facilities for Employees of Kanishka Hotel

4110. SHRI K. MALLANNA :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no arrangements to avail of the medical facilities for the employees of Kanishka Hotel (ITDC) and even for one day or two days, Medical Certificate is asked from the employees ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even first aid facilities are also not provided in emergency cases ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Janpath Hotel (ITDC) dispensary do not allow the staff of Kanishka Hotel employees to have medical treatment ; and

(d) If so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) to (d) Besides first aid, the services of a part-time Medical Officer are exclusively available at Kanishka Hotel. Employees of Kanishka Hotel can avail of the facilities at Janpath Hotel Dispensary in emergency