

spaces after the aerodrome is shifted to another site.

(b) and (c). A Sitting Board has examined a few alternative sites and its recommendations which have been received by Government recently are under consideration.

(d) After a final decision has been taken it will take a few years to develop the new site and shift the operations there.

"Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi"

1017. SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH:
SHRI S. P. RAMA-
MOORTHY:
SHRI P. N. SOLANKI:
SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hotel Review and Survey Committee have recommended the downgrading of the Ashoka Hotel from its "Luxurious" status;

(b) the particular services in which the standard of the hotel has fallen; and

(c) the steps taken by the management to improve those services?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) to (c). The Hotel Review and Survey Committee has not yet completed its task and submitted its report to Government. It is, therefore, not possible at this stage to state what recommendations the Committee will make in respect of the Ashoka Hotel.

Customs Duty on Goods Imported by Governors

1018. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Government Houses, Governors' (including their families) requirements (including personal ones) could be imported from abroad free of duty;

(b) if so, the reason for this discrimination;

(c) the total value of such imports during the last ten years; and

(d) the total amount of duty thus exempted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA):

(a) Yes, Sir. This privilege is available to the Governors in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs of the Government of India (Governors' Allowances and Privileges) Order, 1950 (which was made before the commencement of the Constitution and has continued by virtue of para 3 of the Second Schedule of the Constitution) and paragraph 10 of the States Reorganisation (Governors' Allowances and privileges) Order, 1957, the Governor of Gujarat (Allowances and privileges) Order 1960 and the Governor of Haryana (Allowances and Privileges) Order, 1967.

(b) Even though this privilege is available under the law, instructions have been issued that the Governors' should not resort to the import or purchase out of bond, consumer goods and other articles, the import of which is banned or for which local substitutes are available. They may, however, import or purchase out of bond limited quantities of foreign liquor and manufactured tobacco (i.e. cigars and cigarettes) required for the use of foreign VIP's, who happen to be guests of the Governor.

(c) and (d). The information is not readily available. However, efforts will be made to collect as much information as possible and to lay it on the table of the House.

Sinking of Taj Mahal

1019. SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that "Taj Mahal" is sinking; and