

report has made certain observations on the functioning of the Para-Psychology unit.

(b) So far the University grants Commission has paid a sum of Rs. 45,000 to the University for the Unit.

(c) The Committee was of the opinion that there will be no advantage in continuing the Para Psychology Unit in its present form, as it will result in waste of resources and in alienating the sympathies of the academic community in India and abroad from Para-Psychology and also undermining its claim to being a scientific discipline.

Promotion of Cultural Tourism in India

3148. SHRI D. N. PATODIA :
SHRI VALMIKI CHOU-
DHARY :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sought the assistance of an U. N. expert to aid and advise in promoting cultural tourism ;

(b) if so, the details of the plans drawn up for which the U. N. assistance has been sought ; and

(c) whether Rajasthan has been included in the said plan ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The U. N. Expert on Cultural Tourism, Dr. F. R. Allchin, is at present visiting major centres of archaeological and cultural interest in the country. He has already visited Jaipur, Udaipur and Ranakpur in Rajasthan. After completing his visits he will advise the Department how best to ensure their preservation and promote them as tourist attractions.

Central Government Permission to run Lotteries in States

3149. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether before starting State lotteries, the State Governments are required to seek the permission of the Central Government ; and

(b) if so, the States which have sought such permission and in respect of which the permission has been given ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) and (b). The Government of India have permitted all states wishing to conduct State lotteries to do so subject to the condition that the tickets of such a lottery will not be sold in another State without the express consent of the Government of that State.

Inability of Indian Ports to handle bigger Ships

3150. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that for want of adequate facilities, the Indian Ports are unable to handle bigger ships and are deprived of the benefit available to other countries of the world ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that for want of many other adequate facilities at the Indian ports the incidence of freight charges on merchandise handled by Indian Ports is nearly the highest in the world for comparable distance ;

(c) if so, the extent of loss incurred by Indian Ports due to high incidence of freight ; and

(d) the steps that have been taken and improvements made in 1968 to remove the difficulties of the Indian ports and whether these facilities have been able to reduce the incidence of freight charges incurred on Indian merchandise ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI IQBAL SINGH) : (a) Since Independence, under the successive Five Year Plans, several improvements have been made at the Indian major ports so as to enable them to handle bigger ships and, in constructing new Ports, the aim has always been to provide increased drafts and improved facilities to the maximum extent possible. Shipping technology has been undergoing rapid changes in recent years and facilities at ports in several parts of