

particularly in Madhya Pradesh at present State-wise;

(b) whether this number is adequate keeping in view the large area of Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if not, the number of new rake points likely to be opened in the country, before the next kharif season State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) :

(a) There are 1354 full/half rake points in the country. This includes 56 full/half rake points in the State of

Madhya Pradesh. The information on rake points is compiled Zonal Railway-wise and not State-wise. The Zonal Railway-wise rake points are given in the statement.

(b) and (c) Fertilizer requirement of Madhya Pradesh is met satisfactorily from the existing rake points. The adequacy or otherwise of rake points is a function of efficient management of the logistics, i.e. loading/unloading, evacuation, storage etc. At present, 18 additional rake points are under development in the country, and these are likely to be opened for handling traffic by 1999-2000.

Statement

Rake points on Zonal Railways (Provisional)

(Number)

| Sl.No. | Railway | Full Rake Points | Half Rake Points | Total Rake Points |
|--------------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Central Railway | 135 | 73 | 208 |
| 2. | Eastern Railway | 136 | - | 136 |
| 3. | Northern Railway | 271 | 32 | 303 |
| 4. | North Eastern Railway | 34 | 4 | 38 |
| 5. | North Eastern Frontier Railway | 90 | 29 | 119 |
| 6. | Southern Railway | 58 | 33 | 91 |
| 7. | South Central Railway | 147 | 43 | 190 |
| 8. | South Eastern Railway | 36 | 18 | 54 |
| 9. | Western Railway | 148 | 67 | 215 |
| Total | | 1055 | 299 | 1354 |

Use in Hindi In Scientific Departments

6062. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether official language Hindi is not in use in Nuclear Energy, Electronics and Foreign Departments;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking any initiative by the Government to implement the official language Hindi; and

(c) whether position of India in the field of research is very low due to the use of English language and the developed countries have achieved success as they use their own language?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Official Language is in use in

Deptt. of Nuclear Energy, Electronics and Foreign Departments.

(c) It is not correct to say this.

[English]

Cheating with Tourists by Touts

6063. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign tourists have been cheated by touts at the Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to check the menace of touts;

(d) whether a NRI of Saudi Arabia on a transit between Dharan and Madurai was robbed on May 8, 1998 at Sahar Airport;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SRHI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) During the current year, five cases in which foreign tourists after arrival at the Indira Gandhi International Airport were allegedly cheated/harassed by the taxi drivers, touts etc. came to the notice of Delhi Police.

(c) The measures taken to eliminate the touting menace at Indira Gandhi International Airport include deployment of Police personnel at vulnerable points especially during peak hours, constant vigil at the pre-paid taxi booth; and rigorous checking of the taxis carrying the passengers to their destination. In addition, Delhi Police arrested 943 "touts" and impounded 428 vehicles during the current year upto the 15th July, 1998.

(d) to (f) The information is being collected and will to be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Natural Gas from Bangladesh

6064. DR. ASIM BALA :

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting has been held between Foreign Secretaries of Bangladesh and India recently;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed for import of natural gas from Bangladesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Artificial Limbs

6065. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA :

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to assess the number of persons requiring artificial limbs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any scheme has been formulated to provide artificial limbs to the needy persons;

(e) if so, the number of persons assisted during the last three years, State-wise;

(f) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news appeared in the 'Pioneer' dated May 5, 1998 about the NGO's minting money from artificial limbs; and

(g) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) No such specific survey has been undertaken. However, estimates on the number of disabled persons in the country are available.

(d) and (e) This Ministry is already implementing a Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of aids and appliances since 1981-82. The Scheme is implemented through Registered society, societies/trusts/companies/DRDAs/IRCSs or any other institution recognised by the Ministry. Under the Scheme, aids and appliances are distributed by holding camps at various places in the country and also, and eligible disabled person can have aid and appliances after contacting these agencies anywhere in the country. Persons benefitted from this scheme in the country during last three years are given as under :-

| | |
|---------|--------|
| 1994-95 | 85,000 |
| 1995-96 | 60,000 |
| 1996-97 | 40,000 |

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) There are factual inaccuracies in the Report. Under the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/fitting of aids and appliances, an amount of Rs. 91.44 crore has been given as Grant-in-aid since the inception of the Scheme in 1981-82. It is, therefore, not known from where the figures of Rs. 130.00 crores mentioned in the report has been taken. Under the Scheme, grant is provided to centres run by the companies registered under the Companies Act, Registered Societies, Trusts on the basis of recommendation of the concerned State