

*[English]***Amount Spent on Publicity Abroad**

373. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of budget of Tourism Ministry spent in publicity abroad and maintaining offices there; and

(b) the manner in which the remaining percentage of the budget is spent and how it helps the Government in developing tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) During the financial year 1997-98, 53% of the total budget of Ministry of Tourism was spent on Publicity and maintaining offices abroad.

(b) The remaining percentage of the budget is spent on infrastructure development, print and production of the publicity and promotional material, subsidy for fairs and festivals, hospitality to foreign media and trade, interest subsidy to hotels etc. All these activities also help the Government in promoting tourism within the country.

*[Translation]***Child and Women Labourers in Slate and Pencil Industry**

374 DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of child labourers and women are working in "Slate and Pencil industry" in Mandsour District of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether persons working in this industry gets affected by "SILICOSIS" disease;

(c) if so, whether the Government has planned or any scheme to save labour from above disease; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (d) As per the information received from State Government the "State and Pencil Industry" in Mandsour district of Madhya Pradesh does not have large

number of child labourers. Some women workers are working in the industry. Persons working in this industry get affected by "SILICOSIS" disease.

The State Government has taken a number of steps to protect labour from the above disease. These include:

- (i) Fitting of over 800 cutter machines with anti-dust/pollution devices;
- (ii) Relocating 21 out of 33 workshops outside the city away from residential locations;
- (iii) Insuring every working person of Rs. 1 lakh with the LIC as per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court;
- (iv) Setting up of Madhya Pradesh Slate Pencil Workers Welfare Fund under the M.P. Slate Pencil Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1982;
- (v) Workers affected with silicosis disease are given compensation of Rs. 550 per month. Widow workers are given financial aid of Rs. 300 per month.

*[English]***Direct Train from Asansol to North Eastern States**

375. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations for introduction of a direct train from Asansol to North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Introduction of train between Asansol and North Bengal via Andal-Sainthia-Rampurhat is not feasible due to line capacity constraints on Andal-Sainthia section besides resource constraints.