

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to State/Union Territory Governments for construction of Tourist Bungalow, Tourist Centre and Yatri Niwases.

Fire in Army Hospital at Simla

2312. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major fire broke out in the army hospital at Simla during December, 1998;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry therein;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) the number of persons died or injured and the loss of property suffered therein; and

(e) the steps taken to avoid such fire incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) A fire broke out at 0155 hours on 21/22.12.98, probably due to electric short circuit in the Army Hospital at Shimla. No person died or was injured due to the fire. However, the hospital building (a wooden structure), known as Walker Hospital and an adjacent building housing library, recreation room, Guest room, furniture, Ordnance store, medical store and MES store were completely destroyed. Two ambulance vehicles were also destroyed.

2. A Court of Inquiry has been convened by the Army authorities and is in progress. Fire prevention and protection precautions are also being followed to avoid such fire incidents in future.

Monthly Season Tickets for Agra

2313. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that large number of persons commute between Agra and Delhi;

(b) if so, whether monthly season ticket (MST) is issued to the commuters from Agra to Delhi and vice-versa;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any proposal is pending consideration for permitting MST for such commuters; and

(e) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken?

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) to (c) Season tickets are issued upto 150 Kms only, except on those sections where they were issued prior to 1951. Since the distance from Agra to Delhi is more than 150 Kms and season tickets between these stations were not issued prior to 1951, season tickets are not issued from Agra to Delhi and vice-versa.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Deployment of Army to Contain Internal Disturbances

2314. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times when army was called in to deal with internal disturbances in the country during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, State-wise;

(b) whether any policy review in the matter of deployment of army to deal with internal disturbances is being undertaken; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) A statement containing the desired information is attached.

(b) and (c) It is a stated policy of the Government that the Army should be deployed for such tasks only as a measure of last resort and only if it is not possible for