

from the District Collector, Agra for reopening of the Taj Mahal for close viewing by moonlight.

(c) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Hostels for the Youth

216. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Youth Hostels set up, State-wise;

(b) the facilities made available by the Government to these Hostels; and

(c) the number of people benefited by these in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI UMA BHARTI) : (a) The State-wise list of Youth Hostels is given in the statement attached.

(b) Youth Hostels are established as a joint venture between the Department of Youth Affairs & Sports and the State Governments. While the Central Government bears the cost of construction, the State Governments provide fully developed land free of cost, with water and electricity connections, approach road to the site of the hostel and accommodation for the essential staff. They also bear the initial operational cost of the hostel. A sum of Rs. 1,60,000/- is provided by the Central Government for furniture/ furnishing.

(c) A large number of youth travelling on their educational excursions, youth exchange programmes, integration camps and various other youth activities are immensely benefited by these Hostels which provide accommodation at reasonable rate with basic amenities required.

Statement

S.No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Youth Hostels Completed and Taken over by State Govts.
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3.	Assam	3
4.	Bihar	1

1	2	3
5.	Gujarat	1
6.	Haryana	4
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1
9.	Karnataka	3
10.	Kerala	3
11.	Maharashtra	1
12.	Manipur	2
13.	Meghalaya	2
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2
15.	Nagaland	2
16.	Mizoram	1
17.	Punjab	3
18.	Rajasthan	2
19.	Tamil Nadu	4
20.	Uttar Pradesh	4
21.	A & N Island	1
22.	West Bengal	1
23.	Pondicherry	1
24.	Tripura	1
25.	Orissa	4
26.	Goa	2
27.	Sikkim	1
Total		56

[English]

Destruction of Chopals

217. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of chopals set ablaze in several parts of the country since December, 1998, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have arrested the culprits responsible for destroying the chopals;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to protect the chopals from miscreants?