

concerned employees including those belonging to SC/STs. Supreme Court's orders for revision of reservation policy to provide the reservation in promotion on posts and not on vacancies will be decided by the Department of Personnel and Training.

Armed Escorts to Foreign Tourists

1925. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign tourists visiting especially Bihar will be provided armed escorts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether tourists were killed in Bihar recently; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) To provide security and protection to the foreign tourists visiting important places in Bihar the State Government has directed the concerned District Authorities to provide intensive day and night patrolling.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Internet Service

1926. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Internet Access Service facilities are available in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to privatise Internet Access services in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following is the list of stations where Internet Access nodes from DoT/VSNL are available:

<u>NORTH</u> -	New Delhi, Lucknow, Kanpur, Chandigarh.
<u>EAST</u> -	Calcutta
<u>WEST</u> -	Ahemdabad, Mumbai and Pune.
<u>SOUTH</u> -	Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Mysore (Software Technology Park).

The above nodes can be accessed on dial up basis. The nodes situated in metro cities can be accessed by leasing a data communication circuit from any wherein the country.

(c) to (e). Modalities for possible introduction of private operators offering Internet access are under examination.

Accidents in Hindalco

1927. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the nature and number of accidents occurred in Hindalco at Renukoot in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the causes of these accidents;

(c) the number of labourers killed and injured in these accidents;

(d) the compensation paid to the kins of those killed and injured labourers; and

(e) the measures taken to check recurrence of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Performance of ESI

1928. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the shortage of doctors, specialists, medical equipments, medicines and inadequate number of lady doctors in ESI hospitals/dispensaries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken being taken for restructuring, upgrading and modernising of ESI network and providing better services;

(d) the expenditure incurred on ESI hospitals/dispensaries during each of the last three years; and

(e) the number of defaulter employees availing the medical facilities during each of the last three years, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). In Delhi and NOIDA the responsibility for administration of medical care under the ESI Act, 1948 vests in the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC). Even though the expenditure on medical care is shared by the ESIC and the State Govts./U.T. Administrations in the ratio of 7:1, the responsibility for administration of medical care at other places vests in the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. The ESI Corporation has fixed norms for providing adequate equipments, doctors, specialists etc. in ESI Hospitals/Dispensaries. There have been sporadic complaints about shortage of doctors, medicines, equipments etc. in the ESI hospitals. Such complaints, as and when received, are brought to the

notice of the concerned State Government for taking suitable remedial action. The Corporation has also set up a General Purpose Sub-Committee comprising inter-alia, of Members of Parliament which visits ESI hospitals/dispensaries in two or three states each year. The deficiencies pointed out by the Sub-Committee in this regard are referred to the concerned State Government for appropriate action.

(d) The requisite information is as under :-

Year	Amount (Rs.in lakh)
1993-94	33056.87
1994-95	35079.43
1995-96	38252.73

(e) Under the ESI Act benefits are payable/receivable if the contributions are payable but not actually paid. As no discrimination is made in this regard between the employees of defaulting and non-defaulting factories/establishments, information on defaulter employees availing medical facilities under the ESI Scheme, is not maintained.

Development of Hampi

1929. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the Government of Karnataka to prepare a project report for the development of Hampi in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Karnataka has sent a project report for the comprehensive development of Hampi, now declared as a World Heritage place;

(c) the estimated cost of the project;

(d) whether there is any proposal to secure foreign assistance to take up the above project;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought Rs.20 crores for Tourism related works in the State; and

(g) if so, the details of the tourism related work for which Central assistance has been sought by the Government of Karnataka.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c). The Government of Karnataka has sent a project proposal for integrated Development of Hampi A World Heritage Centre. The estimated cost of the project is Rs.3,962.31 millions.

(d) and (e). The project proposal has been sent to Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance for their consideration for foreign assistance.

(f) and (g). The Government of Karnataka has sought Rs.20 crores for Central Financial Assistance for various projects such as upgradation of information counter, flood lighting of heritage monuments, upgradation of hotels, publicity efforts etc.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Employment Exchanges

1930. SHRI RAJENDERA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn towards the irregularities taking place in employment exchanges; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The Employment Exchanges function under the administrative control of the respective State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The functioning of the Employment Exchanges is kept under review by them for improving their functional efficiency. Guidelines are also issued from time to time by the Central Government to the States for adopting simplified and uniform procedures in the matter of registration and placement by the employment exchanges.

Post Offices under Delhi Postal Circle

1931. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA :
SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of post offices under the Delhi Postal Circle modernised during 1994, 1995 and 1996, till now;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the criteria fixed for the selection of contractors;

(d) whether criteria has been followed strictly while awarding contracts; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Programme of modernisation of post offices in Delhi Circle has been implemented from the year 1994-95 under successive annual plans of the Department of Post, Year-wise break-up of the number of post offices modernised under