

(c) Air India is taking steps to intensify its marketing efforts, augment capacity, reduce non-operating costs and to improve its product, image and on time performance.

Promotion of Tourism in Uttar Pradesh

1750. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :
DR. BALIRAM :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Union Government to promote tourism in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the names of the places in Uttar Pradesh where Government have decided to construct tourist spots during the last two years; and

(c) the progress made in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c). Promotion of tourism and implementation of tourism projects are primarily the responsibility of the State/Union Territory Governments. However, the Department of Tourism Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State/Union Territory Governments on the basis of specific project proposals received, based on their merits, inter so priority and availability of funds

The Department of Tourism, Government of India, has provided financial assistance for the following ten projects which are in different stages of implementation by the State Government : 1. Meditation Centre at Sarnath. 2. Visitor's Centre at Sarnath. 3. Development around Chaukhandi Stupa. 4. Floodlighting of Varanasi Ghats. 5. Restaurant-cum-waiting hall, Sravasti. 6. Restaurant-cum-waiting hall, Kushinagar. 7. Restaurant-cum-waiting hall, Pallia. 8. Floodlighting of Council House at Lucknow. 9. Yatri Niwas at Chitrakot. 10. Sound and Light at Agra Fort

[English]

Setting up of Telecom Authority of India

1751. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government have cleared the Telecom Authority of India Bill

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith functions and composition thereof.

(c) the time by which the Bill is likely to be introduced;

(d) whether the Punjab, Haryana, Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry requested to review the said Bill; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e). The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Bill, 1996 has been introduced on 23.7.96 in the current Session of Parliament. No such representation has come to notice

Mining Lease

1752. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some private sector multinational companies have been granted mining lease in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the norms fixed therefor; and

(c) the period for which the mines have been leased out?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c). Mining Leases are granted as per the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960. As per provisions of the Act Mining leases can be given only to Indian Nationals or to a Company as defined under sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956. Section 8 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 requires that the minimum period for which a mining lease may be granted should not be less than 20 years while the maximum period of the lease should not exceed 30 years

Special PDS Cards

1753. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to target 62.4 million families living below the poverty line for a special ration card scheme.

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) the approximate cost likely to be involved in implementing the above scheme; and

(d) the role proposed to be assigned to State Governments for satisfactory execution of the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d). A proposal to streamline Public Distribution System (PDS) with its focus on poor is under consideration of the Government in consultation with States/UTs. The details are being worked out.

[Translation]

Registration of Newspapers

1754. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the norms fixed for registration of newspapers;

(b) the number of applications for registration of newspapers received and cleared during each of the last three years, State-wise.

(c) the time by which the remaining cases are likely to be cleared;

(d) whether some newspapers have been closed down during the said period; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Newspapers are registered by the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) in terms of the various provisions of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 (PRB Act), as amended from time to time. The norms basically include the verification of the titles as received from the District Magistrates etc., the authentication of declaration by the District Magistrate concerned and commencement of the publication of the Newspapers of various periodicities within the period stipulated in the PRB Act.

(b) Details are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) The pending cases will be cleared as soon as the publishers complete the legal formalities in terms of the various provisions of the PRB Act.

(d) and (e) Information had been received in the office of RNI about closure of two weeklies during the period 1993-94. The reasons for the closure had not been indicated.

STATEMENT

Number of applications for Registration of Newspapers received and cleared during 1993, 1994 and 1995

State	1993		1994		1995	
	Number of applications Received	Number of applications Cleared	Number of applications Received	Number of applications Cleared	Number of applications Received	Number of applications Cleared
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	245	54	125	45	192	64
Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	3	1	1	-
Assam	50	9	68	26	59	25
Bihar	103	29	129	39	97	28
Goa	2	1	-	-	-	-
Gujarat	101	29	151	30	188	46
Haryana	73	31	98	56	112	24
Himachal Pradesh	14	5	6	3	16	6
Jammu and Kashmir	30	8	25	11	43	16
Karnataka	236	80	291	124	263	85
Kerala	75	35	94	33	175	40
Madhya Pradesh	383	185	515	209	538	181
Maharashtra	522	117	412	178	349	107
Manipur	28	-	13	-	25	5
Meghalaya	9	-	7	-	7	3
Mizoram	17	3	2	-	13	1
Nagaland	8	-	2	4	6	-