

International Tourism Day

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

(a) whether on the eve of International Tourism Day this year, over 592 million tourists were on the move world-wide;

(b) whether Singapore attracted 7 million tourists whereas India's share came to 2.2 million merely 70.48 of the global in industry;

(c) whether lack of proper infrastructure and tour marketing are the main reasons for this low percentage of India in the Tourism Industry; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the low percentage?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) According to the World Tourism Organization, the total International tourist arrivals in the world during 1996 were 592 million. Singapore received 6.6 million tourists staying for an average duration of 3 days while India received about 2.3 million tourists staying for an average duration of 30 days Quantitatively the share of India in the World tourist arrivals is 0.4%.

(c) and (d) Yes. The inadequacies in the general level of infrastructure in the country and inadequate resources for promotion are main reasons for low share of India in the world tourist traffic.

[*Translation*]

Houses for P&T Employees

749. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

SHRIMATI PURNIMA VARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed the construction of houses for posts and Telegraph department employees during the last three years;

(b) the actual number of houses constructed during the said period, State-wise;

(c) the number of houses proposed to be constructed during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether the Government have not provided accommodation to all the employees of Department of P&T;

(e) if so, whether the officers responsible for the housing construction are not taking interest;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government in the regard;

(g) whether Class I officers in P&T department get

their accommodation from Directorate of Estates as well as from P&T pool whereas general employees do not get this facility; and

(h) if so, whether the Government propose to remove this dual policy and the steps being taken by the Government to construct Quarter for the officers and employees in consonance to their number?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA):

DEPARTMENT OF POST:

(a) The targets fixed for construction of houses for employees during the last 3 years are as follows:

1994-95 — 456

1995-96 — 535

1996-97 — 500

(b) Details are given in the attached Statement.

(c) The number of houses that are proposed to be constructed during the 9th plan are 950.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) Adequate interest is being taken by the officers responsible for housing construction.

(f) No, as per reply given as (e) above.

(g) No, but in place where the entitled accommodation for the officers is not available in the postal pool, the accommodation is provided from the Dte. of Estates.

(h) Not tenable as per reply to part (g).

Construction of quarters for the officers and employees is being done in a phased manner subject to availability of funds.

DEPARTMENT OF TELECOM

(a) to (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Part(b) The actual number of houses constructed during the said period, State-wise

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Year		
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	85	—	—
2.	Assam	6	—	—
3.	Bihar	36	1	2
4.	Delhi	1	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Gujarat	18	25	20
6.	Haryana	13	—	28
7.	Himachal Pradesh	79	51	7
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—
9.	Karnataka	30	3	—
10.	kerala	3	3	—
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1	7	28
12.	Maharashtra	37	19	—
13.	North East	2	1	—
14.	Orissa	30	—	—
15.	Punjab	—	—	6
16.	Rajasthan	14	11	—
17.	Tamil Nadu	7	1	—
18.	Uttar Pradesh	4	22	8
19.	West Bengal	24	33	22
Total		390	177	139

[English]

Setting Up of International Transshipment Terminal at Cochin

750. SHRI P.C.THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Fredrick Harris, a Foreign Consultant deputed to study the feasibility of establishing an International Transshipment Terminal near Cochin has given a favourable report;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up such a Terminal;

(c) whether India has very good scope to get good business competing with Colombo and Singapore if such Terminal is developed at Cochin; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b) M/s Fredrick R. Harris, Dutch Consultants in their report to Cochin Port Trust in 1991, had recommended the establishment of a Container Transshipment Terminal at Vallarpadam, Cochin. The report is being updated.

(c) Preliminary report indicates good business prospects.

(d) Further action will be taken after the 1991

Report of M/s. Fredrick R. Harris is updated.

Militant's Links in Defence Forces

751. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a militant with top secret military documents relating to the military installations and deployment of Indian troops at the strategic positions in Kashmir Valley was recently arrested by the air customs preventive unit at the IGI airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any investigation to identify the militant's link in the defence forces to obtain such top secret documents;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against those responsible for passing such vital documents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (e) Mr. Syed Liaqat Ali, a Pakistan trained J&K militant, son of Ali Mohd, resident of Shah Mohalla, Srinagar, (S&K) was apprehended by the Customs authorities at IGI Airport, on 25th September, 1997 while he was trying to smuggle some classified defence documents pertaining to anti-militancy operations in J&K of Dubai. He was arrested and a case registered against him under the Official Secrets Act, 1923.

Subsequent investigations of the case revealed the involvement of TA-42079P Major Tanseer Alam of 116 Territorial Army Battalion (PARA), who has confessed his involvement in espionage activities. He has been placed under arrest with effect from October 5, 1997 Action as per law has been initiated against him.

[Translation]

Encroachment of National Monuments

752. SHRI ILIYAS AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that four beegha land belonging to the tombs of Abul Fazal, Faizi and their sister Ladli Begum, which is a symbol of National pride has been encroached;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the Superintendent of National Archaeological Survey, Shri Bhanupratap Singh has taken illegal possession of the land and then took huge amounts from M/s Friend Builders for the construction of Siddhartha Enclave Colony;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the fact that Bhanupratap Singh has demolished these important National Monuments;