

(e) the details of the persons found guilty and action taken against each of them?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bad weather (fog) has taken a heavy toll of punctuality during December 1998 to February 1999. Trains lost punctuality on account of fog are as under:

Northern Railway 2163, Western Railway 69, Eastern Railway 292, Central Railway 40 and North Eastern Railway 11.

(c) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Industry Status to Tourism

1446. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commerce Ministry has suggested that tourism should be given as an industry status;

(b) if so, whether any concrete measures have been worked out in this regard in consultation with the Ministry of Commerce;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have given special emphasis on awarding tourism the status of systematic/full-term industry during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (e) The Government of India has accorded Export House Status to Tourism. Hotels, Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Tourist Transport Operators shall be entitled for recognition as Export House/Trading House/Star Trading House/Super Star Trading House vide Government of India, Ministry of Commerce Notification No. 33 (RE-98) 1997-2002 dated 26.11.98. Consequently, they shall be entitled to such benefits as specified in Chapter 12 of the Handbook of Procedures (Vol. I).

International Conference on Asian Security

1447. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he addressed the International Conference on "Asian Security in the 21st Century" held in Delhi on January 27, 1999; and

(b) if so, the main topics discussed in the conference and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Topics pertaining to the emerging security environment in Asia were discussed under the following agenda items:

(i) Strategic Framework for Policy-makers

(ii) India and the Great Powers

(iii) Future of Nuclear Deterrence

(iv) Defence planning in an Era of Strategic Uncertainty.

This was the first such initiative by the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses. The conference provided a forum for eminent Governmental and non-governmental experts from abroad to interact with their counterparts in India for an exchange of views and perceptions on these key issues.

Supply of Wagons

1448. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Kerala to restore the availability of wagons to bring the buffer stocks in the FCI godowns; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no problem in supply of Railway wagons for loading of Foodgrains for Food Corporation of India for Kerala. However, programme for movement is given by the Food Corporation of India and loading and movement is organised considering the loading and unloading potential and performance.