

[Shri Arjun Sethi]

the Institute on whom a whopping Rs. 23 lakhs were spent in 1980-81. All this is a far cry since 17 years ago when the Institute was set up with great hopes at the initiative of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan on the model of similar institutes at Princeton and Oxford Universities.

The Institute's aim was to provide an unfettered inter-disciplinary atmosphere for the study problems in the humanities and the social sciences. Distinguished scholars in various fields like the late Dr. Niharangan Ray, B.B. Lal, Dr. S.C. Dube, etc., have at one time or the other worked at the Institute to pursue their interests which otherwise would have been difficult for them to do. The Institute also has some important publications to its credit.

The great disservice to the Institute was done by the last Government which decided to close it down. Mercifully this has yet to happen. But a thick air of uncertainty still surrounds its future. The Government has before it the recommendations of a Committee headed by Dr. Krishna Kripalani to make the functioning of the institute more effective and broad based. It will do well to release this report so that a public debate can be initiated and a national institution saved from decay and oblivion.

(iii) NEED TO CONTINUE AIRPORT VISA SYSTEM

****SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK** (Cuttack): I would like to raise the following matter of urgent public importance under rule 377. The decision of the Government to abolish visas for foreign tourists has caused a great concern among the genuine tourists coming to India.

Tourism is the country's third largest exchange earner. It earns foreign exchange worth Rs. 700 crores annually. The country was expecting

a large chunk of foreign exchange from a large number of foreign visitors this year in view of the Asian Games. To attract foreign tourists the Government had introduced the airport visa system under which the tourists can easily get a 30-day visa as they land at the airport without going through the time consuming visa formalities at the Indian missions abroad. Nearly a million tourists avail themselves of the airport visa facility every year.

Getting a visa from an Indian mission overseas is normally a difficult task. Besides, a large number of employees will be required if the present system of giving visas to foreign tourists is abolished. It would be very difficult on the part of the Ministry of External Affairs to sanction such a vast number of additional employees overseas. The absence of such additional number of employees overseas may lead to harassment to the visa applicants. The hotel industry and travel agencies will be hit hard if the airport visas are abolished. The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation has fixed an impressive target of receiving foreign tourists in 1982-83. If the visa is abolished, the target set by the Tourism Ministry cannot be achieved as the number of foreign tourists visiting India will be reduced. Thus the country will lose foreign exchange worth crores of rupees. In view of this, I demand that the airport visa system should not be abolished.

(iv) RACKET IN FORGED VISAS.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR (Ratnagiri): A massive racket in forged visas is operating in the country, and has duped thousands of job seekers of easily a few crores of rupees. The glamour of earning petrodollars from Gulf countries and the foreign returned label have landed thousands of poor and gullible semi-literates in severe financial straits. The victims belong to economically

**The original speech was delivered in oriya.