

Conversion of Vice Regal Lodge at Shimla into a Hotel

1455. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to convert the historic Vice-Regal Lodge at Shimla, housing the Indian Institute of Advanced Study into a hotel;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether objections are being raised from different quarters against the conversion of this historic building; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) and (b) With a view to rehabilitate the building earlier known as Vice-Regal Lodge at Shimla, it has been decided that the entire campus comprising 127 acres may be developed as a major tourist resort by ITDC, with the stipulation that main building will not be used for tourist purposes.

(c) and (d) Since the Government is interested in restoring the prestige glory of the old historic building which has run down for want of proper maintenance, the objections being raised in this regard are not tenable. There is no proposal to make any structural changes in the main building of Vice-Regal Lodge. The interiors of the building would be preserved as they are and historical significance of the building will be maintained.

Global Smuggling Network of Foreigners in Mumbai

1456. SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a global smuggling network by foreigners has made 'Mumbai' an important transit point of drug smuggling;

(b) if so, the details with reasons thereof;

(c) the quantity of heroin seized in the city of 'Mumbai' in 1989 and upto April, 1990;

(d) the number of foreigners arrested for smuggling drugs, countrywise; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to check this drug smuggling in 'Mumbai'?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) Due to her geographically sandwiched situation between two major illicit sources of Opiates and Cannabis Resin, the 'Golden Crescent' in the Middle East Region and the 'Golden Triangle' comprising Burma, Laos and Thailand, India has been increasingly facing transit traffic in heroin and hashish (Charas), and is being used as a conduit, particularly through Delhi and Bombay.

(c) The quantity of heroin seized in the city of Bombay in 1989 and upto April, 1990 is as given below:

Year	Quantity of Heroin Seized (Kgs.)
1989	934.023
1990 (upto 30th April)	544.061

(d) The number of foreigners arrested country-wise, is given below: (In Bombay).

Year	Country	No. of Persons Arrested
1989	Nigeria	43
	Ghana	6

<i>Year</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>No. of Persons Arrested</i>
	UAE	2
	Afghanistan	2
	Kenya	2
	South Africa	2
	Germany	2
	Tanzania	1
1990 (upto 30th April)	Nigeria	40
	Ghana	3
	Mali	1
	Senegal	1
	Guinea	1
	South Africa	1

(e) The Government have taken various steps such as improving enforcement, strengthening of Narcotics Control Bureau, improving liaison with national and international agencies, such as INTERPOL, International Narcotics Control Board, Customs Co-operation Council, Drug Enforcement Administration of USA etc.

Smuggling of Crocodile Skin

1457. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the skin of crocodile is being smuggled out on large scale from Port Blair in Andamans in recent times;

(b) if so, the details with reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) Large scale smuggling of crocodile skins out of Port Blair in Andamans have not been noticed in recent times. However, the Customs authorities remain alert against smuggling of contraband goods. Close co-ordination is being maintained between all the agencies concerned with the detection and prevention of smuggling.

[*Translation*]

B-2 City Status to Chandigarh

1458. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to grant Chandigarh, B-2 City status;

(b) if so, the date by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government have decided to upgrade Chandigarh as a 'B-2' city for the purpose of grant of House Rent Allowance also with effect from July 1, 1990. Chandigarh is already a 'B-2' city for the purpose of Compensatory (City) Allowance.

[*English*]

Ban on Import of Lac

1459. SHRI KARIA MUNDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to ban the import of Lac during the current year; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?