

ISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir. A Conference of Inter-Continental Journalists was held from 28-30 November, 90.

(b) Decisions taken at Conferences organised by private organisations are treated as suggestions only.

Enquiries into Escape of Undertrials from Tihar Jail

566. SHRISHANTARAMPOTDUKHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of foreign undertrials lodged in the Tihar Central jail had gone on a hunger strike en masse during October last, as reported in the 'Indian Express', New Delhi dated 18 October, 1990;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to sort out matters and to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Some foreign undertrials went on hunger-strike from 15th October, 1990 to 16th October, 1990.

(b) Their main demands were:—

(i) expeditious trials;

(ii) grant of bail;

(iii) better medical and recreational facilities; and

(iv) separate cooking facilities.

(c) The Districts and Sessions Judge Delhi has impressed upon the Criminal Courts to decide cases of undertrials expeditiously. Grant of refusal of bail is wholly in the judicial discretion of the Courts. There is an OPD Dispensary and a 60-bedded hospital with X-ray facilities and Pathology laboratory to cater to the sick prisoners. Various indoor and outdoor games as also newspapers and magazines are provided to the prisoners. Separate cooking facilities are being provided to the foreigners.

Recommendations of High Powered Committee on Property Tax Reforms

567. SHRISHANTARAMPOTDUKHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High Powered Committee on Property Tax Reforms has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee;

(c) the expenditure incurred on this Committee; and

(d) the time likely to be taken to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations of the Committee are contained in the Statement enclosed.

(c) So far an expenditure of Rs. 85,454.00 has been incurred.

(d) Certain legislative amendments may