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**Ban on Expeditions and Tourism in
 Gangotri Region**

*258. SHRI NARSINGRAO SURYAWANSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to put a ban on expeditions and tourists to Gangotri Region; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUFRAY): (a) and (b). There is no such proposal at present. However State Government have been advised to devise means to regulate and restrict the influx of tourists and expeditions and take steps to improve the ecology and environment of the area.

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**Migration of Students of Regional
 Engineering College, Srinagar to Other
 States**

*259. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Regional Engineering College at Srinagar has been opened;

(b) if not, the alternative arrangement made for the students in Regional Engineering College, Srinagar;

(c) whether Kerala Government has recommended to admit 12 Kerala students from Regional Engineering College, Srinagar to Regional Engineering College, Calicut;

(d) if so, whether Union Government have agreed to the recommendation of the Kerala Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) to (e). The Regional Engineering College (REC) at Srinagar has opened. However, in view of the prolonged disturbances in the Kashmir Valley, the Government decided to allow transfer of students from the Regional Engineering College, Srinagar to other Engineering Colleges in the country. All States and Union Territories including Kerala were requested on 26.6.1990 to accommodate their students studying in Regional Engineering College, Srinagar in their own Engineering Colleges. The Regional Engineering Colleges in various States were advised to accommodate the students belonging to Jammu & Kashmir, foreign students and students from educationally deficient States studying in the Regional Engineering College, Srinagar. Out of 12 students of Kerala origin 10 students have been nominated in the Regional Engineering College, Calicut and 2 in Engineering College, Trichur. Eleven students belonging to Jammu & Kashmir, foreign students and educationally deficient States/ Union Territories studying in Regional Engineering College, Srinagar have been nominated to the Government Engineering College, Trichur.

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Adherence to Pollution Control Measures by Industries

*260. SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of Central Pollution Control Board has expressed dissatisfaction at the Pollution Control measures being taken by Industries as reported in the Indian Express dated 4 July, 1990;

(b) whether Government are aware that false certificates are being issued by certain officials of Pollution Control Agencies;

(c) whether Government have investigated into the report; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken or proposed?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUFRAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Smuggling of Ancient Idols

*261. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ancient idols stolen from Jain temples and other ancient temples during the last one year;

(b) the number of idols recovered and the number of idols smuggled out of the country;

(c) the action being taken by Government against idol thieves and smugglers; and

(d) the security measures being adopted to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) and (b). During 1989, 61 idols were stolen from Jain temples and 786 idols from other temples. 157 idols were recovered during the same period. There is no information as to the numbers smuggled outside the country.

(c) and (d). Statement is given below:

STATEMENT

Besides bringing the idol thieves to book through law enforcing agencies, the Government of India has taken following measures to prevent thefts and smuggling of antiquities:

1. Enforcement of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972, which *inter-alia* provides:

- (i) compulsory registration of certain categories of antiquities (sculptures in all media, paintings and illustrated and illuminated manuscripts);
- (ii) Recording the movement of registered antiquees;
- (iii) Dealing in antiquities to be restricted to licensed dealers; and
- (iv) Restriction on export of antiquities.

2. Other measures include (i) posting of Armed Guards in important centrally protected monuments/museums, (ii) maintenance of sculpture-sheds and Archaeological museums at important sites, (iii) tightening of watch and ward arrangements including appointment of Security Officers, (iv) posting of officers at important custom points to help the customs authorities and (v) setting up of Expert Advisory Committees for examination of art/craft objects of be exported.

3. After the ratification of the Unesco Convention on the Means of Prohibiting Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Cultural Properties in 1977, India is in a position to put claims for the return of stolen/lost antiquities and art treasures of Indian origin from the country where these surface.