

Poor occupancy in ITDC Hotels

*110. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rate of occupancy has been very poor in ITDC hotels during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether maintenance and service in Government run hotels leave much to be desired; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) Out of 24 hotels run by the ITDC throughout India, stretching from the period of April 1984 to February 1985, 13 hotels have maintained/improved their occupancy over the corresponding period of the previous year. Only 9 hotels showed a decline in occupancy. Of the balance 2 hotels, Hotel Janpath was under renovation for a substantial part of the year, and the Ashok Yatri Nivas increased its room capacity considerably. Hence, occupancies of these two hotels are not comparable with the figures of the previous year.

(b) Of the 9 hotels affected, three are located in New Delhi and one in Bangalore. The main reason for the fall in occupancy in these four hotels is creation of surplus hotel capacity in these 2 cities. In the remaining 5 hotels whose locations were decided for purely promotional reasons, the low occupancy is due to the overall decline in tourist traffic in 1984.

(c) and (d)- No, Sir. However, improvement of service and maintenance is a continuous process in all hotels, and this is monitored both by the ITDC and the Government on a continuing basis.

Regular Utilization of Sports Stadia and Equipments

*111. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) how the various stadia and other

sports arena constructed for Asian Games held in New Delhi are being utilised since the conclusion of Asian Games till date;

(b) the steps taken to keep secure the valuable sports equipment and machinery imported for Asian Games ;

(c) whether any constructive plan has been formulated for regular and constant use of such stadia and sports arena in New Delhi ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) to (d). The various stadia and other sports arenas constructed for IX Asian Games held in Delhi have been utilised since the holding of the Games, mainly for holding sports events coaching in sports, and, in the case of some stadia, also for providing residential accommodation at concessional rates to sports-persons. The sports equipment and machinery imported for Asian Games are kept under proper security and maintained by technically qualified staff.

The Sports Authority of India, which is concerned with the utilization of the stadia constructed for the Asian Games, is already ensuring their utilization in co-operation with the national sports federations concerned. With a view to promoting greater utilization of the stadia for holding sports events and coaching camps, the Authority has introduced a plan in which no fee would be charged from organisers for holding sports events without gate-money. Even where gate-money is charged by the organisers, the rent payable by them to SAI would be modest.

Special Tours to Places of Buddhist Interest for Japanese Tourists

*112. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether special tours are being organised for Japanese tourists to cover

places of Buddhist interests in the country; and

(b) if so, whether these tours have received good response from Japanese tourists ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) and (b). India Tourism Development Corporation in collaboration with the Indian Railways have organised package tours using a specially introduced luxurious air-conditioned train called the 'Great Indian Rover' which covers Calcutta-Nalanda-Rajgir-Bodhgaya-Sarnath-Kushinagar and Lumbini (in Nepal).

Various travel agents and tour operators also organise special package tours for Japanese tourists to visit places of Buddhist interests in India.

Meeting of Indo-Iranian Joint Commission

*113. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of Indo-Iranian Joint Commission was held in November, 1984 ; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The two sides agreed to take steps to strengthen bilateral co-operation in various fields including industry, trade, culture, consular matters, information and education.

Terrorist Activities by Tribal National Volunteers

*114. SHRI ANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the so-called Tribal National Volunteers have again started their terrorist activities in recent months;

(b) if so, the number of terrorist incidents which have taken place during the last three months and the details thereof;

(c) whether any evidence of foreign hand has come to light behind such activities ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : (a) The Tripura National Volunteers (TNV) have been engaging in their terrorist activities in the recent months.

(b) The number of incidents during the last three months is 17. The details of the incidents are given in the statement attached.

(c) and (d). According to information available, insurgents of the organisation Tripura National Volunteers are operating from bases within Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh. These are also reports of their being trained in Bangladesh. The matter was taken up with the Bangladesh Government repeatedly. The Bangladesh Government, however, denied that the TNV had set up bases in Bangladesh or that the organisation was receiving training or any other kind of assistance from the Government there.

Statement

Sl. No.	Date and Place	No. Killed		Brief Details
		SF/Police	Civilians.	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	8-1-85 Nunchhara, PS Kailashahar, North Tripura.	—	6	6 Bengali Labourers were killed when they had gone to the forest to cut grass.