

Withdrawal of restrictions imposed on the movement of foreigners in Darjeeling Area

*427. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISHRA :

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has received any proposal of the Government of West Bengal from the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation to withdraw restrictions imposed by the Government in the name of national security on the movement of foreigners in Darjeeling and adjacent areas particularly Mirik and Kalimpong ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether such restrictions have been imposed on foreigners for the same reason in other parts of the country ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the decisions of Government to withdraw restrictions imposed on the foreign tourists and save tourism in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) :

(a) and (b) The Department of Tourism have intimated that the State Government are interested in facilitating visits by foreign tourists to Mirik, Kalimpong and the wildlife sanctuaries of the Dooars.

(c) and (d) Under the provisions of Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958 and Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963, there are restrictions on the entry of foreigners into border areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, States and Union Territories in the North East, Sikkim, northern districts of West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(e) Under the existing instructions

which have been in force for a number of years, foreign tourists are being permitted to visit Darjeeling town and surrounding areas for tourism on very liberal basis. As regards the suggestion for permitting visits to certain other places in Darjeeling district, the State Government have been addressed in July, 1983 to examine the matter with reference to various related aspects and communicate their views for consideration.

Elimination of the 'Mafia' Menace from Dhanbad Coalfield Area

*428. SHRI A.K. ROY :

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received the resolution passed in Sixth Annual General Meeting of Dhanbad District Coordination Committee of Employees and Workers Association, held at Dhanbad on 22 and 23 May, 1983 regarding the elimination of the 'Mafia' menace in Dhanbad Coalfield area ;

(b) if so, what are the reports and recommendations made by Raja Gopalan Committee of 1979 and Kumarmangalam Committee of 1982 regarding elimination of 'Mafia' activities from Coalfield area; and

(c) the action taken by Government to implement the recommendations of the said committees to eliminate the 'Mafia' menace ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.C. SETHI) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in library. See No. LT 6970/83]

Offloading of a contract for Boiler by B.H.E.L. to a Polish Firm

*429 SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA : Will the Minister of INDUS-