

[English]

### **Train from Guwahati to Puri**

2983. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a new direct train from Guwahati to Puri; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) There is no proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

### **IGNOU Study Centre at Tihar Jail**

2984. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study centre of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was inaugurated by him at the Tihar Central Jail during the last week of July, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the courses proposed to be offered at the study centre;

(c) the estimated expenditure to be incurred for running the centre;

(d) the response of the inmates of the jail to the gesture of IGNOU;

(e) whether the IGNOU propose to consider establishing such study centres

in the Central Jails of other metropolitan cities; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the information furnished by the Indira Gandhi National Open University, the Study Centres are generally established in the accommodation provided free of cost by a host institution. The University meets expenditure on furniture and audio/video equipment and books and reading materials.

These centres are manned by part-time staff and the remuneration is paid by the University. In the beginning of 1994, 19 students who included under trials and employees of Tihar Jail, enrolled in the IGNOU programmes. For their benefit, a study centre started functioning which was formally inaugurated on 28.7.1994. There is a proposal to offer the following programmes during 1995:

1. Bachelors' Preparatory Programme
2. Bachelor of Arts
3. Bachelor of Commerce
4. Certificate in Food & Nutrition
5. Diploma in Rural Development

(c) The average expenditure involved in the running of a Study Centre is about Rs. 1.5 lakhs on non-recurring items and about Rs. 80,000 per annum on recurring expenditure.

(d) For the session commencing in January 1995, 140 inmates of the prison and 111 other candidates, including Jail employees, have applied for admission to the IGNOU for the above programmes.

(e) and (f). A sub-centre under the auspices of a Study Centre in Bangalore has been functioning in the Central Jail, Bangalore since 1993. The entire expenditure on the sub-centre is met by the State Government of Karnataka. A proposal to set up a sub-centre at Sabarmati Central Jail in Ahmedabad is under consideration.

### **Global Bid**

2985. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to reply given to Starred Question No. 21 on 26.7.94 and state:

(a) the date, when global bids were invited;

(b) the number of bids received, tourist circuitwise, by closing date, 25th July, 1994;

(c) whether the Government have formulated a model contract for the purpose which is to serve as the basis for the bids and the subsequent contract;

(d) the brief particulars of the bidders; and

(e) the date by which the decision is to be taken for making the awards?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (e). Ministry of Railways invited global bids for ownership, marketing and management of Palace on wheels type Tourist Train on 5 Broad Gauge circuits through advertisements in news papers from 13.5.94 to 23.5.94. The basis for the bids including terms and conditions thereof were detailed in the 'Bid Document' which was made available to the prospective Bidders between the dates mentioned above on payment of a nominal fee. A total of 23 bids were received as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Name of the bidder	Name of the circuit for which applied
1. (i)	M/s. Sterling Holiday Resorts (India) Ltd., Madras	Delhi-Jaipur-Agra-Gwalior-Jhansi-Varanasi-Lucknow-Delhi
(ii)	M/s. Sahara India Savings & Investment Corpn. Ltd., Lucknow	"
(iii)	M/s. Indian Hotels Co. (The Taj Group of Hotels, New Delhi	"
(iv)	Eastwest Travels & Trades Links Ltd., New Delhi	"
(v)	The East India Hotels Ltd., Delhi	"
(vi)	Datavision Systems Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	"