

(d) the steps taken to implement the above proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION : (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) to (d). As part of VII Plan Strategy to promote holiday and leisure tourism, efforts are being made by the Department to create facilities at Beach resorts including introduction of water sports. The Deptt. has also decided to set up an institute of water sports at an appropriate location.

Helicopter Services on Commercial Basis

4430. SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines has a proposal to introduce helicopter services on commercial basis in some parts of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and progress in the matter; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in near future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION-(SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Power from sea water

4431. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the achievements made so far in regard to the programme being carried out to generate power from costly stones, metals hidden in the sea bed and also from the sea water;

(b) whether Government propose to make this programme more comprehensive; and

(c) if so, by what time and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) The reference to costly stones and metals in the sea bed is presumably to polymetallic nodules. These could be the source of scarce metals but not for electric power. There are three schemes under consideration for the generation of power from the sea based on tidal energy, ocean thermal energy and wave energy. Techno-economic feasibility reports are under preparation for tidal power and for ocean thermal energy conversion. Research and Development work has already started on the utilisation of wave energy for power generation.

(b) & (c). During the Seventh Plan period, a greater effort will be made on the generation of power from the sea.

[*English*]

Artists excluded from Festival of India in France

4432. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the artists and artisans of Orissa were totally excluded from the Festival of India in France;

(b) whether the leading exponents of Odissi dance were ignored completely; and

(c) what are the art forms including Music, Painting and Dance etc. from Andhra Pradesh which were given due representation in the Festival of India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) No, Sir.