

(a) whether Government propose to set up some tourist centres exclusive for foreign tourists to encourage tourism, and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the location of each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Explosion In Dehu Road Ordnance Factory, Pune

6707. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE: SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an explosion ripped through the Dehu Road Ordnance factory at Pune on 26 March, 1989; if so, the number of persons who died and how many were injured;

(b) whether the exact cause of the explosion has since been ascertained; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and further steps Government propose to take to provide safety to the workers engaged in ordnance factories in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION & SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, sir. As a result of the explosion, four industrial workers died, 16 industrial workers received minor injuries.

(b) and (c). A Board of Enquiry under the Controller of Quality Assurance (Military

Explosives) has been constituted on 26.3.89 by the Ordnance Factories Board Calcutta to ascertain the cause of the accident and suggest remedial measures. The report of the Board of Enquiry is awaited in the Ministry. In addition to all safety provisions in force in the Ordnance Factories; at present, any further remedial measures suggested by the Enquiry Board will also be duly considered for adoption of receipt of the report of the Board on enquiry by the Ordnance Factories Board.

Encouragement to Youth to Join NDA

6708. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE: SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a sharp decline in the in-take of cadets in the National Defence Academy during the past few months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to encourage the youth to join NDA and also propose to provide better amenities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION & SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b). There has been a slight shortfall in the last NDA Batch (Jan 1989)) due to recent upgradation in the educational qualification (from 10+1 to 10+2) and unexpectedly larger failure in the medical test.

(c) and (d). Continuing efforts are made to improve the training and attract the most talented youth to join the NDA.