

Janpath Hotels with a view to making them more attractive to the tourists, consequent to the transfer of management of these Hotels to his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): Various measures are under consideration to improve the position, such as merger of the Hotels, obtaining the services of foreign Hotel Consultants etc.

TOP MANAGEMENT POSTS IN PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

6735. SHRI D. N. PATODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to ensure better functioning of the Public Sector Undertakings, Government have decided that the Government employees who opt out for top management posts in public sector undertakings will be asked to give up their Government job;

(b) whether the principle will be made applicable to those Government employees who are already working with the Public Sector Undertakings; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). The Administrative Reforms Commission in their Report on "Public Sector Undertakings" has recommended that all necessary steps should be taken to reduce and eliminate the dependence on deputationists in manning top posts in the public sector. This recommendation is under consideration of Government.

SERVICING OF DRILL RIGS BY SHIPPING COMPANIES

6736. SHRI D. N. PATODIA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the leading foreign shipping companies have set up subsidiaries for servicing drill rigs used for off-shore drilling;

(b) whether Government have considered the possibility of setting up an Indian off-shore service by the Shipping Corporation of India;

(c) if so, whether the resources of the Corporation are adequate to undertake the new assignment; and

(d) if not, the deficiencies and how they are proposed to be met?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (DR. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

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

PAYMENT OF AIR FARES AND HOTEL BILLS IN STERLING AND POUNDS

6737. SHRI D. N. PATODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to change the Foreign Exchange Act to ensure that the foreign tourists pay their air fare and hotel bills in Sterling and Pounds;

(b) whether the Department of Tourism has also been consulted in this connection;

(c) whether the proposed action will succeed in checking the leakage of foreign exchange; and

(d) if so, the likely annual savings of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION: (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) to (d). An Inter-Ministerial Committee was recently set up under the Chairmanship of the Tourism and Civil Aviation Secretary to suggest measures to prevent leakage of foreign exchange through tourists. The proposal to enact legislation to make it compulsory for