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| 7. | Sh. K.K. Bandopadhyaya, Addl. Commissioner (Planning), DDA | Singapore, Bangkok, Manila, Hanoi and Ho-chi-Minh city | 7.9.1998 |
| 8. | Sh. A.K. Jain, Addl. Comm. (Planning), DDA | | to 19.9.1998 |
| 9. | Sh. K. Mahesh, OSD to Minister of Urban Affairs & Employment | | |
| 10. | Sh. K.K. Bhandari, Eng. Member, DDA | Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Shanghai (China) | |
| 11. | Sh. Vijay Rishbud, Comm. (Planning), DDA | | |
| 12. | Sh. S.C. Tayal, Director (Planning) | | 7.11.1998 |
| 13. | Sh. Prakash Narain, Director (Planning), DDA | | to 22.11.1998 |
| 14. | Sh. Ashok Acharya, OSD to Lt. Governor of Delhi | | |

No report has been submitted to Govt. as yet by these delegation.

[English]

Media Briefing by Army

839. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :
SHRI M. RAJIAH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the *Asian Age* dated September 3, 1998 captioned "Bureaucrats upset over Army briefing",

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken to set the matter right?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) From time to time instructions are issued to streamline the system of media briefings by senior officers of the defence establishment. These instructions

are aimed at making interaction with the press effective, coherent, informative and accurate. Such briefings involve the armed forces and civilian components of the defence establishment in a way that the existing press relations effort is buttressed with technically qualified backing whenever required. There is no question of anybody being upset over the transmission of coherent, accurate and informative information to the media through authorised briefings.

Military Hardwares to Burma

840. SHRMATI RANEE NARAH :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of main buyers of Indian defence products, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government have turned down several requests from Burma for supply of military hardware in the recent past; and

(c) if so, the reasons attributed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Defence production units have primarily been exporting defence products to countries in the Afro-Asian region. These include ammunition, communication equipment, aeronautical stores and software items, etc. Some Components and sub-systems are also being exported to certain developed countries.

(b) and (c) It is not in public interest to disclose this information relating to specific countries.

[Translation]

Defence Cooperation with France

841. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any consensus has recently been reached on the long term defence cooperation between the Prime Minister of India and France; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) During the recent visit of Prime Minister to France discussions were held with the French President, Prime Minister and Defence Minister on many issues of mutual interest including defence cooperation. The discussions confirmed the strong desire of the two sides to strengthen all aspects of defence co-operation including defence supplies, interaction in defence research and development as well as production, training and exchange of defence related visits at different levels on the basis of an understanding and appreciation of each other's security concerns and aspirations.

Setting up of Divisional Office in Ahmedabad

842. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL :
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has provided land to Railways for setting up of Divisional office in Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the location thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above Divisional office is likely to be made functional and the details of territorial jurisdiction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) No land has been provided by State Government. However, land was offered by State Government at Gandhinagar. Land offered by Gujarat Government was not found suitable for locating the Divisional office.

(c) The Division being made functional depends upon availability of suitable land, development of infrastructure, thereon as suitable land has not yet been offered a time frame for making the Divisional Office functional has not been fixed. The territorial jurisdiction of the Ahmedabad Division has not yet been finalised.

[English]

Foreign Tourists Detained in Plane at IGI Airport

843. SHRI KAMALNATH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plane of visitors to India from U.K. had an unwelcome experience because the visitors were detained at the Indira Gandhi International Airport for four hours:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ward off such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) On a specific complaint, Chartered Flight No. 733 from Tbilisi, Georgia carrying 155 passengers was detained by immigration authorities at the airport on 3.10.1998. After consultation with the DGCA officials, the passengers were cleared. DGCA has since taken action against the tour operator for violation of charter guidelines.

(c) Monitoring of charter flights by DGCA would be intensified, to prevent such incidents.