

*[English]***Performance of DFF**

1308. SHRI P. SANKARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Film Festival (DFF) is functioning without the required number of Directors for the last six years;

(b) whether the budget of D.F.F. has been reduced substantially; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) There is only one post of Director in the Directorate of Film Festivals. The Joint Director is holding current charge of the post. Proposal to fill up the post, on a regular basis, has been sent to the UPSC.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Non-Lethal System from South Africa

1309. SHRI D.S. AHIRE:
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to purchase non-lethal system from South Africa to tackle internal strife in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the contract indicating the estimated cost likely to be involved along with the schedule of its delivery; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help in stopping the anti-terrorism activities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) In order to afford greater protection to our troops, engaged in counter-insurgency operations, procurement of Mine-Protected Vehicles has been contracted with a South African firm for use in areas where land mines and Improvised Explosive Devices are suspected to have been planted.

*[Translation]***Development of Religious/Tourist Places**

1310. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH:
SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI:
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Uttar Pradesh propose to develop some religious/tourist places with the Central assistance;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals received by the Government;

(c) the time by which the work on these projects is likely to be started and the cost involved therein, project-wise;

(d) the total amount spent on the tourist places that are being developed with the Central assistance during 1998-99;

(e) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government for the development of tourism industry in Uttar Pradesh; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (f) Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for specific projects identified in consultation with them based on their merits and the availability of funds. 35 projects in 1998-99, have been prioritised for an amount of Rs. 740 lakhs in consultation with the Uttar Pradesh Government. As and when the complete project proposals are received from the State Government, the same are sanctioned and funds released in instalments.

Yatri Niwas in Uttar Pradesh

1311. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Yatri Niwas in Uttar Pradesh, Location-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have received proposals from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for construction of more Yatri Niwas in the State; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon and the amount released during the year 1997-98 therefor?