

port and for supply to the steel plants. Export of iron ore through Paradeep has been uneconomical to MMTC because of the long rail haulage and the limitations of port capacity. Because of the restricted draft in the port, foreign buyers are less ready to take ore from Paradeep than from larger ports like Visakhapatnam and Madras. The off-take by steel plants is not constant as they largely depend on their own captive sources. For these reasons, and because of the large stocks available with it, MMTC has had to restrict procurement of iron ore from this area. Nevertheless, largely on social considerations, MMTC is continuing procurement on the basis of quantities delivered by suppliers during the previous year. While efforts will continue to be made for larger off-take of iron ore from this area, much will depend on the future growth of demand.

#### Development of Tourism in Assam

2408. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by Government to develop tourism in the Assam State ;

(b) whether there is any proposal to carry out any survey for potential of tourist development in Assam ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A.P. SHARMA) : (a) The Central Department of Tourism has constructed a 24 double bed-room Forest Lodge at Kaziranga Wild Life Sanctuary. Transport facilities by way

of mini-buses for Kaziranga and Manas Wild Life Sanctuaries and trained elephants for Kaziranga have been provided for viewing wildlife. The India Tourism Development Corporation has set up a Transport Unit at Gauhati for operating conducted sightseeing tours to Kaziranga and Manas.

(b) and (c). To identify centres and determine schemes for development of tourism in Assam, a team of senior officials from the Central Department of Tourism and ITDC recently toured Assam. The recommendations of the team in respect of facilities to be provided and the development of tourist travel circuits in Assam will be discussed in a meeting this month with the tourist officials of the State Government when the details will be finalised.

#### Inter-State Movement of Oil and Oilseeds

2409. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Centre has intimated Gujarat to revive its reported move to retain 70 per cent of the groundnut output for sale within the State ;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has examined that the recent spurt in the prices of edible oil was generally ascribed to State Government's proposal ; and

(c) if so, whether his Ministry had asked the Gujarat Government to take steps to restore free inter-state movement of oil and oilseeds?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.