

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The measures include advertising in Newspapers, magazines, Television and the Radio. Sales seminars, India evenings, lectures and exhibitions are also organised jointly with the airlines, tour operators and travel agents. In addition, film shows, audio visuals and trade shows are also arranged in clubs, universities and similar places. The production and distribution of tourist publicity literature (folders, brochures, maps etc.) in different local languages other than English is another continuing activity.

The Government has also encouraged and facilitated the making of feature films abroad such as Gandhi which has resulted in an overwhelming interest and curiosity about India.

Though India is traditionally known in the travel world as a "cultural destination", efforts are also being directed towards publicising it as a "holiday destination". Packages selling itineraries on "Beach Holidays", "Adventure Tourism" and venues for International Conferences and Conventions" are among the newer features in the marketing campaign.

The Department of Tourism in addition, through its hospitality programme have invited travel writers, tour operators, TV teams and travel agents on familiarization tours to India so that they could obtain first hand knowledge of the facilities available.

The Festival of India which is scheduled to be inaugurated in USA and France in June this year also expected to generate interest in India to a considerable extent.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Has Government agreed to allow tourist charters to come to India approved by foreign travel agents; if so, whether Air India has expressed apprehension that this will affect its own tourist charters or regular traffic ?

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK GAHLOT : So far as the main question of the hon. Member is concerned, we know that 60 per cent tourists come to India from Europe and the U.S.A.

out together. In the recently held conference, in which all Regional Directors participated, we fixed the target for Europe at 25 per cent, for U.K. at 18 per cent and for the U.S.A. at 18 per cent and we are going ahead with that target.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : May I know whether hotel occupancy had been very low throughout 1984; if so whether this was due to foreign tourist promotion chains and hotel chains of USA and Europe who had refused to recommend India due to political or other considerations; if not, what were the other reasons which prevailed in this case ?

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT : Owing to the incidents which took place in 1984 and the adverse publicity given to them in these countries, the tourist traffic to our country has declined, there are no two opinions about that. I have already informed that there has been a decline of 3.6 per cent, but we are making efforts to counter the adverse publicity and we hope that this year we shall be able to improve the situation.

[*English*]

SHRI A.K. PANJA : There are restrictions on entry of foreign tourists in the hill station of Darjeeling and Skkim areas of Gangtok including Kalimpong, which attract a lot of tourists. Is the Minister considering lifting those restrictions so that there may be inflow of foreign tourists in those areas ?

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT : So far as our Ministry is concerned it is our endeavour to attract foreign tourists to as many places as possible, but this question is also related to the Home Ministry and, therefore, it is necessary to consult them also.

[*English*]

Encouragement to Sports Among Men and Women

*368. **KUMARI PUSHA DEVI :** Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) steps taken by the Government to encourage sports among men and women;

(b) the various incentives proposed to be provided to encourage sports during 1985-86; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

With a view to encouraging sports in the country, the Government, in concert with the State governments and Union territory administrations, have a number of schemes in operation. The more important among them are mentioned below :—

- (i) With a view to making play-fields and stadia available, at the grass-roots level, the Government are operating a scheme of grant to State Sports Councils etc. under which financial assistance is provided, *inter-alia*, to the State Governments for development of play-fields and construction of utility stadia. It is proposed that in course of time each district headquarter in the country have a mini Sports Stadium.
- (ii) For encouraging participation in sports among the rural youth, a scheme of rural sports tournaments is being operated under which rural tournaments are held at the block, district, state and national levels. Similarly, for promotion of sports among women, sports festivals for women are held at the block, district, state and national levels.
- (iii) The scheme of Sports Talent Search Scholarships in operation is meant to encourage school and college students who show promise in sports and games.
- (iv) The Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports operates the national coaching scheme under which regional coaching centres in different states provide an opportunity to young men and

women and children to undergo training and coaching.

- (v) The Institute has also set up field-stations in a number of universities to encourage college and University students to take part in sports and to undergo coaching for the purpose.
- (vi) Financial assistance is provided to national sports federations to enable them to send national teams abroad for participation in international tournaments and for holding international tournaments within the country.

The on-going programmes for the promotion of sports will continue in 1985-86 with increased out-lays. In addition, certain new schemes for encouraging participation in sports are contemplated, the more important among which are : (i) a scheme of holding sports talent search contests for children of the age group 7-12; (ii) scheme for adoption of schools where special attention to sports activities will be given; (iii) setting up of sports hostels attached to regional coaching centres of Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports; and (iv) assisting State Government in laying synthetic surfaces for athletics and hockey.

KUMARI PUSHA DEVI : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Sports whether he is aware that last year the All India Council of Sports had prepared sports policy which was submitted to the Sports Ministry, and if so, what action has been taken by the Ministry, or is the Ministry preparing some new sports policy.

SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : Sir, as far as the sports policy is concerned, it was placed before both the Houses of Parliament in 1984.

KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Sir, the Scheme of Sport Talent Search Scholarship in operation is meant to encourage school and college students who show proficiency in sports and games. I would like to know whether this scholarship is given in each and every State and whether it is a fact that many schools and colleges set up in rural and backward areas are not strictly implementing this scheme. In that case, what steps Government proposes to take so

that the sports talent scholarship is properly given in each school and college to encourage the sportsmen and sportswomen?

SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : Sir, it is not a question of individual school or college. Certain standards are prescribed and according to those standards, we have competitions at the State level and at the national level and those of the students who come up to that level, are given scholarships.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Sir, during the Asiad a lot of money was spent for developing the sports, and the stadia and other sports facilities which were made available in Delhi at that time, were to be made use of thereafter for promoting the sports. There was an article in *India Today* saying that the entire money which we spent for developing the stadia and for providing other facilities, as being kept idle and even the sportsmen from the various universities, who want to practice there, are not permitted to do so, and these are being kept only as show-piece. I would like to know whether it is correct and whether the Government has any policy for the use of these stadia and other facilities made available during the Asiad Games, for the purpose of developing sports in the country.

SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : Sir, we do not have any restrictions. In fact all the stadia available in Delhi after the Asian Games are open to all. Certain norms have been worked out. We have been holding coaching camps in different stadia like Talkatora Stadium and Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. As far as the people coming to see these stadia in Delhi are concerned, these being something of tourist attraction, we cannot stop people from coming to see them. But we have prescribed certain norms for students and for the public. We do not restrict anyone from coming into those stadia. Everybody is allowed to come. They have to pay certain fees and then they can come and practise there and can use the facilities available in the stadia. There are no restrictions.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : What are the fees, Sir?

SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : I do not have the exact figures with me.

SHRI BRAJMOHAN MOHANTY : Sir, the National sports policy was formulated by the Sports Council and it was approved by the Sports Ministry. The national plan for development of sports during the Seventh Plan was under formulation. So, I would like to know whether the same has been finalised or not and what are the broad objectives of the development programme for sports during the Seventh Plan.

SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : Sir, we have various schemes like giving assistance, providing stadia for the sports complex...

SHRI BRAJMOHAN MOHANTY : My question is different, not providing assistance, but the objective of the developmental programme during the Seventh Plan.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : Sir, Seventh Plan is under formulation. If the Plan is presented, this will come with that.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I would like to know from the hon. Minister that with all his good intentions whether it is not a fact that particularly women are not encouraged to participate in sports in a greater degree. There is even a concrete instance. Sir, the other day you led the Cricket Team of parliamentarians against the journalists. Is it not a fact that there was not a single lady Member of Parliament participating in the Cricket Team? Is it not a proof of your inability to encourage them?

MR. SPEAKER : In that light, I think I should allow a privilege motion against all the Members who participated in that!

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : We shall all be participating if you allow us.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : It is the fault of the present Members not to have offered a chance to them.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I also have a point in my mind. Today, the number of schools

is increasing and some teaching shops are also being opened. Schools are opened in houses also. There are schools which do not have play-grounds of their own. Do you not think that it is essential for a school to have a play-ground? Schools have no play-grounds for the children.

[English]

We should think about it on those lines. That is my only suggestion. You have to do it, the Education Department itself should do it. Don't allow recognition to those schools which have no playgrounds. There should be no recognition for them. They should be banned.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Indian Olympic Association has approached the Government to permit it to extend an invitation to hold the 1992 Olympic games in India and if so, the decision of the Government in this matter.

SHRI R.K. JAIHCANDRA SINGH : Sir, a letter has come from the IOA. The Government is considering it. All aspects will have to be considered before we take a final decision.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : Sir, during the ASIAD we suggested certain games to be distributed areas to different so that stadia could be built in other areas also. But that was not done. It is an eye-wash and I did not know whether for political purposes they may be used or not, but there is a feeling in the minds of the people that as they are lying idle, Government is considering to convert them into wild life sanctuary. Is that true?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : The hon. Member will be most welcome to come to the stadia !

Resistance by Bangladesh for Erection of Fence

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*369. **SHRI G.G. SWELL :**

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bangladesh Rifles have

been arming and training villagers on their side to violently resist the erection of the Assam-Bangladesh fence;

(b) whether Bangladesh has been constructing watch-towers on its side of the fence; and

(c) whether Government will go ahead with the erection of the fence as scheduled ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) :

(a) Government have no such reports.

(b) While reports have been received that Bangladesh intend to construct a number of watch towers on its side, so far only one watch tower has been constructed by them.

(c) Yes, Sir.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Sir, in connection with this, I am not quite convinced with what the Minister said that they had not received such reports because all that has been belied by the fact that they have rushed additional contingents of Border Security Forces to the Bangladesh border with Tibet. Over the question of construction of a dam, the Bangladeshies are raising a dam which threatened to flood our part of the country, and when our workers were doing some work there, they said that they should stop the work under threat of dire consequences. Now, before I come to that, I would like to mention that yesterday I received a letter from a lady living on the border of Bangladesh, from my State in which she said that she was going from one market to another within our territory. She was intercepted by some unruly elements from Bangladesh. She was robbed of everything including her watch and stabbed. She was taken for dead by those elements. But she did not die. Some people took her to Shillong where she had been treated in a hospital and fortunately she seems to be well on the road to recovery. Now, this sort of thing does not happen once a while. This is not an isolated incident. It happens frequently. Bangladeshis come at will and take away betel leaves of the people from the garden. They take away betel nut. They take away shingles. They take away