

Foreign Tourists

134. SHRI GOPI NATH
GAJAPATHI:
SHRI CHITTA MAHATA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of foreign tourists visiting the country has decreased during 1990 in comparison to the previous years;

(b) if so, the various factors responsible therefor; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to attract more tourist traffic during 1991 by providing additional facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINHA): (a) Foreign tourist traffic to India during the first eleven months of the current year has declined marginally as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) The decline in tourist traffic is due to disturbances in some parts of the country, the adverse publicity of these events in overseas markets, reduced air seat capacity in domestic sector international developments like Gulf Crisis, reunification of East and West Germany, economic restructuring of Soviet Union etc.

(c) The measures initiated by the Government to provide additional facilities for boosting tourist traffic to India include liberalisation of charter policy, introduction of multi-entry visas for a period of 5 years, provision for the payment of visa fees by cheques/credit cards, improvement of tourist facilitation, relaxation of rules regarding restricted area permits, up-gradation of tourism infrastructural facilities, creation of money changing facilities in hotels and other

establishments, etc. The year 1991 has also been declared as "India Tourism Year" to improve the image of India.

Alleged Accusation by Pakistan High Commission in India

135. SHRI Y. S. RAJA SEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan High Commission in India has accused the Indian authorities of launching a "move to harass, provoke and intimidate" its diplomatic officers and "disrupt the functioning of the High Commission" itself;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction to these charges?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

The Pakistan High Commission in a Press release on 30th November, 1990 has made allegations to this effect.

(c) The Government of India has rejected these allegations which are only a cover up for the provocative harassment of the personnel serving in the Indian Missions in Karachi and Islamabad.

Position of Edible Oils in the Country

136. SHRI Y. S. RAJA SEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present position regarding availability of edible oils in the country;

(b) whether these are being imported and if so, the quantity thereof;