

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA):

(a) Government has noted the latest resolution of the United Nations Security Council on Iraq's action on Kuwait.

(b) and (c). The Government of India has consistently called for complete and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and restoration of the sovereignty and independence of Kuwait. Government of India believes that the Gulf crisis should be resolved through a peaceful settlement.

Passenger Steamer Service between Bombay and Goa

216. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:
SHRI YASHWANTRAOPATIL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether clearance has been given to any Shipping Company to commence passenger steamer service from Bombay to Goa along the Konkan Coast;

(b) if so, whether all the formalities have been completed by the Shipping Company; and

(c) if so, when the Passenger Steamer Service is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b). Government have accorded approval to the following Companies to acquire vessels for operating Passenger Service from Bombay to Goa:—

1. Great Eastern Shipping Company Ltd.
2. Binkam Shipping Pvt. Ltd.
3. Satyagiri Shipping Company Ltd. (SSCL).

4. Link-on Sea Link Pvt. Ltd. (LSPL).

The validity of the sanctions accorded to Great Eastern Shipping Company Ltd. and Binkam Shipping Pvt. Ltd. have since expired. Satyagiri Shipping Company Ltd. (SSCL) have completed the necessary formalities for remitting the initial deposit for acquisition of the vessel.

M/s. Link-on Sea Link Pvt. Ltd. are yet to apply for the requisite clearances.

(c) Satyagiri Shipping Company Ltd. have indicated that they would start the Passenger Service as soon as they obtain possession of the vessel. It is likely that this may take about 12 months.

[*Translation*]

Development of Tourist Places in Madhya Pradesh

217. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASHTRI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any plan to develop tourist places in each district in the country for the purpose of earning foreign exchange during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any scheme to develop the ancient temples that were built three centuries ago, the famous Chachai-Falls and Dev Talab in the Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh, as tourist places equipped with modern facilities; and

(c) if so, the time by which these schemes are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINHA): (a) Development of tourism is pri-

marily the responsibility of the State Government. However, the Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance for specific proposals based on their merit, availability of funds and inter-se priorities and not for each district.

(b) and (c). There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Ministry of Tourism.

[English]

Tourist Traffic in Gujarat

218. SHRI BALVANT MANVAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tourist traffic to Gujarat State has declined during the last one year as compared to the previous corresponding period;

(b) if so, the details of tourist traffic to the State both domestic and foreign during the last two years;

(c) the steps being taken or contemplated to identify tourist circuits in the State and whether any promotional programmes are underway for the increase in tourist traffic; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINHA): (a) and (b). As per the information available from the State Government, the number of tourists, both domestic and foreign, who visited Gujarat during the last 2 years and first 9 months of the current year along with the percentage change are as given below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>% Change</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
1988	1,07,296	—
1989	1,11,456	3.9
1990 (January-September)	66,232	- 23.5*

*Compared to corresponding period of previous year.

(c) and (d). Identification and development of tourist circuits is a continuous process and is done in association with State Governments. Bhavnagar-Palithana-Lothal-Ahmedabad-Modhara is an extension circuit in Gujarat identified for promotion of tourism in the State. Tourist attractions of Gujarat are being given wide publicity both within the country and abroad.

Soil Testing for Cotton Cultivation in Orissa

219. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken soil testing in Orissa for exploring