

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN.* (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the amount of Rs. 7200 crore, which was to be paid to Russia, was not justified. therefore, this amount was fixed at Rs. 21566 crore. While working out the amount, both, Russia and India were to benefit. In this amount, supply of cryogenic engines was also to be made. Now, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the number of facilities accepted by Russia, out of the facilities agreed upon in favour of India ? If not, was it justified to fix Rs. 21566 crore instead of Rs. 7200 crore ?

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : These two issues have been confused. One issue is that we have to meet our debt obligations towards them and the amount which has been agreed, that we have to pay over a period of 10-12 years. Instead of taking cash, they will take in goods. So far as the normal trade is concerned, as we have agreed. from the first of January 1993, there will be trade in fully convertible currency. The old arrangement which prevailed earlier would no longer remain vailed. Therefore, there are two channels through which we are having trade with the Russian Federation and the other CIS countries. One is the normal trade channel through the convertible currency and they are indicating - it was also agreed- the type of commodities which they would like to have and the quantum which they would like to have. They will indicate this to us. Very recently, they have indicated. They will designate their parties. The agreements between the Reserve Bank of India and their bank have also been reached. So, another route will be through the debt-servicing route.

Tourism Projects

*682. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases of non-utilisation and mis-utilisation of financial assistance sanctioned/released to the State Government for development of tourism and also of diversion of such assistance to projects other than those for which it was sanctioned have come to the notice of Union Government during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM) (SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR): (a) : No, Sir.

(b) and (c) : Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister is suprising. In the performance budget, it has been stated that for Palam Yatri Niwas, a project of Rs. 45 lakh has been sanctioned. I would like to inform the House that this project is only on papers. Whereas, the officers of the Department say that the project has been completed. Neither any amount has been sanctioned for this project nor any work has started. will the hon. Minister look into the matter and take action against the guilty person.

MR. SPEAKER : For which project are you talking about?

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Palam Yatri Niwas. It has been mentioned in the performance budget.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think you can get it examined.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are so many cases but I have mentioned little example.

I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to sanction funds for the development of Konkan region, which is also known as California of India ?

[English]

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR : This question does not relate to the main question. But I can say that the procedure is that the State Governments give these projects. We do not tell them that to do. The State Governments give these projects. We examine them. In 99 per cent of the time, we agree to those proposals.

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a very specific question.

MR. SPEAKER : Not only this, but all the questions should be specific.

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI : There are very important places located in Bihar. For example, there are important places like Both Gaya, Rajgiri, Parasnath and Thumar-Talैया. These are important places of

tourism. These are attracting a large numbers of pilgrims and tourists from all over the country. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to develop all these important places of tourism in order to attract more and more foreign exchange more and more pilgrims and more and more tourists from all over the country and outside also.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : He has given the reply.

[English]

The State Government has to send them proposals.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Minister of Civil Aviation and tourism where it is a fact that in three big airports there were kennels built at the cost of crores of rupees, but there were no dogs. Is it a fact or not ?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Geetaji, this is a different question.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, taking advantage of the fact that the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism is here, I want to know this thing because the Comptroller and Auditor General had commented on it.

MR. SPEAKER : Civil Aviation and Tourism are two different subjects. Of course, they are with one Minister. No, please.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Mr Speaker, Sir, today Nanded is a famous place all over the world. The people believing in Sikh religion from all over across the borders come to have a glimpse of tenth - guru. Today Nanded is surrounded by Gurudwaras. Whether the Government has any scheme to make this famous religious place as a tourist attraction centre so as to spread the message of the Guru all over the country ? If not, the reasons therefor.

[English]

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR : Sir, Nanded has been identified as one of the pilgrimage centres and as soon as the Government of Maharashtra sends us any proposal, we will definitely consider it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Chandravati in Varanasi is a holy place for the followers of Jainism as well as the followers of Shiva of Hindu religion. Some remnants of Mahabharata period have also been found there. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has recently sanctioned Rs. 2 crore for the development of tourism there. However, during the last ten years, many tourists have been attracted towards this place. In Saidpur, which is located between Chandravati and Ghaziapur, remnants of Chandragupta Maurya era have been place as well as similar other places ? Whether it is a fact that the Government of Uttar Pradesh has also sought additional assistance for the development of both these places and the Union Government propose to sanction additional funds for this purpose in the near future ?

[English]

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR : Sir, I do not have the details of this right now. But when it comes, we will definitely help.

Trade Agreement Under GATT

*683. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :
SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some developed countries are seeking to link social issues like human rights, child labour, environment, health, etc. with trade agreement under GATT;

(b) if so, the names of such countries;

(c) whether India has taken up this issue with the developing countries; and

(d) if so, the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

The US and some European countries raised the issue of the consideration of the link between international trade and internationally recognised labour standards (the so called Social Clause) in the last phase of discussions at Geneva prior to the Ministerial meeting at Marrakesh. Some developed countries like Canada, Japan and the UK had a different position. Almost all developing countries were not in favour of