

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Any joint venture, Sir. I have cited one joint venture that has been recently signed and that will be registered also. That is why I want to know categorically what would be the investment ratio between India and Russia in the joint venture.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is one.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, this would vary from project to project and, as I said, this is a subject matter of negotiations with business communities of the two countries. There cannot be any rigid answers to all joint ventures. They will have to be in conformity with the overall policy with regard to foreign investment in India.

SHRI K.T. VANDAYAR: Sir, the imports from the erstwhile Soviet Union were primarily of Defence spares and equipments and of steel plant components. Will, the Government explore the possibility of enlarging the scope of import of spares and equipments which are required for Defence Forces from the Russian Federation? Also, what are the tie ups between India and Russia in this regard? Would it not be prudent for our Government to liquidate the Russian debt in a phased manner in terms of rupee-rouble agreement?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, the repayment of the debt has to be in accordance with the inter-governmental agreement. That has already been agreed to in 1993 and we propose to follow the pattern laid down in the inter-governmental agreement.

With regard to Defence imports, every effort is being made to ensure that whatever spares we can get from Russia, we ought to procure them.

SHRI B. AKBAR PASHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, lot of goods were exported to the erstwhile Soviet Union, and after the collapse of the Soviet Government, huge money was to be paid to the Indian exporters. This came after more than one and a half years and the exporters had to suffer paying interest to the banks, sometimes penal interest also. Is the Government going to do something to help the Indian shippers who have suffered? Some of them have to close down their business. Is the Government going to negotiate with the erstwhile Soviet Union representatives or the Russian Republic, whichever it is, for getting the compensation for the interest paid as well as for compensation of the loss they have sustained?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, this is a question relating to exporters. I would request that may kindly be addressed to the hon. Minister for Commerce. I do not have the details with regard to this question.

### **Tourism Offices Abroad**

[*Translation*]

182. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :  
SHRI MOHAN SINGH  
(DEORIA) :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of offices of the Tourism Department functioning in the foreign countries;

(b) the achievements of these offices during the last three years;

(c) whether their performance has been satisfactory;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have decided to open some new offices; and

(f) if so, the details alongwith the locations thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM(DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM) SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR; (a) to (f). A statement has been laid on the table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) The list of 18 Government of India Tourist offices abroad may please be seen at Annexure,

(b) to (d). Yes, sir. The tourist arrivals have shown a positive trend. The year wise figures are as follows :-

1991-92	1781892
1992-93	1820239
1993-94	1871262
1994-95 (April/June)	387592

The estimated foreign exchange earnings have also increased. The year wise figures are as follows :-

	Rs. in Crores
1991-92	3318.60
1992-93	3989.50
1993-94	4572.71
1994-95 (April/June)	179.16

Given the constraints, their performance has been satisfactory. The review of the performance of the offices is a continuing process.

(e) and (f). Yes, sir. The Government proposes to open new offices at the following places within the overall budget provisions and sanctioned strength of staff for running of Tourist offices abroad. The New offices are to be located at :-

	LOCATION	COUNTRY/AREA
(1)	Seoul	Korea
(2)	Johannesburg	South Africa
(3)	Tashkent	CIS Countries
(4)	Tel Aviv	Israel

## ANNEXURE

There are 18 overseas offices covering following countries:

Sl. No.	Name of Office	Area of Jurisdiction	Number of India based Officers.				Staff Strength	Number of local based employees.
			R.D	DIR	A.D.	I.A		
1.	New York	United States	1	1	2	1	5	
		Mexico						
		West Indies						
2.	Los Angeles	Jamaica,		1	1		3	
		Haiti,						
		Dominican Republic- San Juan,						
		Port Au-Prince,						
		Santo Do-Mingo,						
		Leaward Islands,						
		Guadeloupe,						
Martinique,								
Barbados,								
		Trinidad Curacao,						

Sl. No.	Name of Office	Area of Jurisdiction	Number of India based Officers.			Number of local based employees.
			R.D	DIR	A.D. I.A	
		Windward Island				
		Belize,				
		Guatemala,				
		Honduras,				
		Rica,				
		Colombia,				
		Venezuela,				
		Guyana,				
		Surinam,				
		French Guiana,				
		Ecuador,				
		Peru,				
		Bolivia,				
		Paraguay,				
		Chile,				
		Uruguay,				
		Argentina,				
		Brazil.				

Sl. No.	Name of Office	Area of Jurisdiction	Number of India based Officers.			Number of local basea employees.
			R.D	DIR	A.D. I.A	
3.	Toronto	Canada, Greenland.	-	1	-	1
4.	London	England, Vales, Scotland, Republic of Eire, Gibraltar.	1	-	1	3
5.	Geneva	Switzerland.	-	1	-	1
6.	Madrid	Spain, Portugal.	-	-	1	1

Sl. No.	Name of Office	Area of Jurisdiction	Number of India based Officers.				Number of local based employees.
			R.D	DIR	A.D.	I.A	
7.	Paris	France, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia Senegal, Gambia, Guine Bissau Guinea Sierra Deone, Liberia, Ivory coast, Mali, Upper Volta, Ghana Togo, Benia Congo, Chad, Central African Republic Zaire.	-	1	1	1	-

Sl. No.	Name of Office	Area of Jurisdiction	Number of India based Officers.				Number of local based employees.
			R.D	DIR	A.D.	I.A	
		Angola, Western Sahara, Mauntania, Monoca.					
8.	Frankfurt	Germany, Poland, Austria, Israel, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Lativia, Lithuania Estonia,	1-	1		3	

Sl. No.	Name of Office	Area of Jurisdiction	Number of India based Officers.				Number of local based employees.
			R.D	DIR	A.D.	I.A	
		Ukraine, Russia, Byolorussia, Noldavia, Georgia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Tadzhikistan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kirgizia.					
9.	Stockholm	Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Iceland.			1		2



Sl. No.	Name of Office	Area of Jurisdiction	Number of India based Officers.			Number of local based employees.
			R.D	DIR	A.D. I.A	
10.	Amsterdam	Netherlands, Belgium, Luxemburg.	-	1	1	1
11.	Milan	Italy, Libya, Greece, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia, Herzegovinia, Macedonia, Malta, Crete, Cyprus.	-	-	1	1

Sl. No.	Name of Office	Area of Jurisdiction	Number of India based Officers.			Number of local based employees.
			R.D	DIR	A.D. I.A	
12.	Dubai	Saudi Arubia, Turkey, Iran, Syria	-	1	1	4
13.	Bahrain	Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait, Bahrain United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia,	-	-	1	-

Sl. No.	Name of Office	Area of Jurisdiction	Number of India based Officers.			Number of local based employees.
			R.D	DIR	A.D. I.A	
		Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Numbia, Mada- gascar, Botswana, South, Africa.				
14.	Sydney	Australia, New Zealand, Fiji Islands.	-	1	1	4
15.	Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia, Brunei.	-	1	-	2

Sl. No.	Name of Office	Area of Jurisdiction	Number of India based Officers.				Number of local based employees.
			R.D	DIR	A.D.	I.A	
16.	Singapore	Singapore,	1	-	1	-	2
		Hong Kong,					
		Phillipines Indonesia.					
17.	Tokyo	Japan,	1	-	2	-	4
		China,					
		Mongolia,					
		North Korea,					
		South Korea,					
		Taiwan.					
18.	Bangkok	Thailand,	-	1	-	-	1
		Kampuchea,					
		Laos,					
		Vietnam.					

**KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:** Sir, the hon. Minister has given the data from 1991-92 to 1994-95. This data shows that compared to the number of international tourists who travelled in 1993-94, the number of tourists who came to India is very small.

Out of five million international tourists, India has got only 1.72 million and out of that most of them are from Gulf countries. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Tourism Offices abroad are equipped to have the tourist information about India. I also want to know whether the hon. Minister is giving any emphasis to open more Tourism Offices in the Gulf region so that India can get more and more tourists.

**SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:** Sir, the Tourism Offices are located in countries which generate tourism to our country. Our Tourism Offices do not act as travel agencies. They are there to coordinate with the tour operators and travel agents of those countries, helping them with publicity support with literature and with making films also. So, what we basically do is to coordinate with the travel industry of those countries. As far as the Gulf region is concerned, it is true that after the Ayodhya incident the inflow of tourists from these countries did drop and we are making efforts to improve the inflow of tourists from those countries.

**KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:** Sir, during the last foreign trip the hon. Minister had visited 32 foreign countries. So,, I want to know whether the Minister, during that visit, had taken any incentive measures to improve the tourism marketing in our country through these offices because the inflow of tourists is disrupted since last year because of the Ayodhya incident and Bombay blasts. I also, want to know whether the Minister is aware of the fact that the Tourism Offices abroad are inefficient and unable to give any

information materials about India to the tourists through their offices and what measures the Minister has taken regarding the lack of potentiality of the officers there.

**SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:** Sir, the Minister's visits were in the form of delegations in which officials of the Department of Tourism, Civil Aviation were included. The representatives of the State Governments, members of the travel trade, hotel industry and Ait India were also included in those delegations. Of course, the Indian Embassy in each place was closely associated. These tours included meetings with Heads of States, counterpart Ministers, representatives of the tour and trade industry. Some presentations were made and we also met the officials of the host countries. This was the first visit at the Minister's level to some of the countries like the CIS countries, South Africa and South American countries. This has resulted in useful interaction both the Government as well as the industry level and created a lot of awareness regarding India as a safe and attractive destination.

As far as the ineffectiveness of the tourist offices, I would like to say that there is always room for improvement. The minister had visited these tourist offices and we are in the process of improving them. But I would not say that they are totally ineffective. The tourist arrival shows that they are a doing a good job.

**THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been a number of news items which have appeared in different newspapers that the Ministers are visiting a number of foreign countries. I would like to make it very clear that the visit which I, my colleague and officers have undertaken was a sort of crash programme because after the Ayodhya incident, Bombay

blasts and the law and order problems which we have unfortunately witnessed in different parts of the country, we had to instill confidence among the international community and also among the travel and trade community that India is still the safest country. So, it is a matter of great pleasure to announce here that the result from the countries which we have visited last year has come now and the inflow of tourists from these countries has increased from 20 per cent to 51 per cent.

SHRI K. PRADHANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has said in his reply that there are 18 offices abroad working for the tourist visitors. May I know from the hon. Minister which are the offices abroad that are getting the highest foreign exchange for our country? Is there any more possibility of increasing this revenue?

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: It is very difficult to say office-wise which is getting the highest tourists.

MR. SPEAKER: You can analyse and send it to him.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: It is not the office which is getting the revenue. One thing has to be made clear. The Ministry of Tourism does not get any money in lieu of the visits of tourists to the country. The greatest number one chunk of tourists, we get from United Kingdom. Naturally, maybe, money-wise, it should go to United Kingdom office. Number two is U.S.A. and like this.

It is not the Department of Tourism but it is the Government of India or the country which is receiving the foreign exchange.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: For the

inflow of tourists from foreign countries, is there any proposal before the Government to entrust this work to agencies on commission basis so that the inflow of tourists can be increased?

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: There is no such decision. Our office abroad are doing well. Up to now, we have got almost an increase of 15 per cent and we are hoping to achieve about 18 per cent. In six months' time, we have done very well.

MR. SPEAKER: Tourism is already in the private sector.

#### **Handloom And Handicraft Items**

\*184. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL:  
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA  
RAJE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for export of handloom and handicraft items during the last three years alongwith the target achieved;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period;

(c) the target fixed for export of handloom and handicraft items during 1994-95 alongwith foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom;

(d) whether any such items produced in Rajasthan are proposed to be exported; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE  
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.