

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Subject to the prescribed area development regulations, private entrepreneurs are free to develop tourist resorts at any place of tourist importance in the country.

(b) The private-sector is encouraged to set-up hotels by means various incentives offered in the form of fiscal reliefs, financial assistance in the form of institutional loans, priority consideration for essential requirements, etc.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

Proposal to patronise New Hotels in Orissa

1787. SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to patronise new hotels in Orissa, particularly in Puri, Gopalpur and Bhubaneshwar to boost tourism; and

(b) what help Union Government propose to give in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a): The Department of Tourism only approves hotels from the point of view of their suitability for foreign tourists and all hotels conforming to the minimum standards of service and amenities prescribed by the Department in this regard, are free to apply for this approval.

(b) The assistance available to approved hotels includes allocation of foreign exchange for advertising, publicity, sales promotion abroad and for the import of essential items of equipment and provision. Subject to the prescribed conditions, approved

hotels are also eligible for certain tax concessions under the Income tax Oct. 1961:

Training imparted to Pilots and Aircraft Maintenance Engineers

1788. SHRI D.B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is imparting training to pilots and aircraft maintenance engineers belonging to foreign countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Nepal, Tanzania, Zambia and Afghanistan.

Rebate in Excise Duty

1789. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state:

(a) whether excise rebate recently announced by Government in respect of certain items would have any effect on their consumer prices; and

(b) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The Scheme is primarily intended to encourage higher production in respect of certain specified items. It is too early to evaluate the effect of the Scheme on the consumer prices of the specified items, since the Scheme has been in operation only from 1st July, 1976.