

(b) whether it is correct, that too much reliance on public sector in this regard has kept foreign tourists away from India?

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

(b) No, Sir. Too much reliance is not being placed on the public sector in this regard, inasmuch as adequate assistance and encouragement are being given to the private sector also for providing facilities for foreign tourists. In any case, the number of tourists visiting India has progressively increased as will be seen from the figures given below:—

Year	Tourist arrivals	% change
1974	423,161	..
1975	465,275	10.0
1976	533,951	14.8
1977 (Jan—June)	282,449 (over corresponding period 1976)	19.3

Foreign Tourists to India

3660. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government did not achieve the targets set for foreign tourists' arrival in India so far in the 5th Plan; and

(b) whether Government propose to hold officials responsible for this national loss and punish them?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) The Department of Tourism had set a target of 800,000 international tourists by the end of 1978 at a projected growth rate of 15 per cent per annum. This target was laid down when the Fifth Five Year Plan was being formulated in 1973 when there was no indication of the decline in international tourist traffic due to the oil crisis. The flow of international tourist traffic to India, therefore, received a set-back in 1974 the first year of the Fifth Plan, when an increase of only 3.2 per cent in international tourist arrivals was registered as against the projected growth rate of 15 per cent. As compared, however, to the world tourist figures, which declined by 2.8 per cent in 1974 even the marginal increase of 3.2 per cent in tourist arrivals was an achievement.

In subsequent years the flow of international tourist traffic to India has shown a progressive increase by registering a 10 per cent growth in 1975, 14.8 per cent in 1976, and 19.3 per cent in the first half of 1977. If the present encouraging trend in international tourist arrivals continues, and no political or economic crisis engulfs the world, it should be possible to reach the targetted figure of 800,000 international tourists by the end of 1978.

(b) Does not arise.

Steps to Receive Foreign Tourists

3661. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the steps that are being taken to receive one million foreign tourists, as was proposed earlier, by 1980 through private and public sector agencies?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): A Statement outlining the various measures