

Tourist Traffic

803. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether tourist traffic declined this year and last year and if so, the main reasons therefor;

(b) what was the total decline this year in comparison to the previous year; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the tourist traffic?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b). No, Sir, there was no decline in tourist traffic during the last two years. On the contrary, the tourist traffic has shown an upward trend during the last two years. As compared to 465,275 foreign tourists who visited India during 1975, the tourist arrivals during 1976 were of the order of 533,951 recording an increase of 14.8 per cent. During January to May, 1977, 243,985 foreign tourists visited India and recorded an increase of 19.7 per cent over the corresponding period of 1976.

(c) Although tourist traffic to India is having healthy growth, the Department of Tourism is intensifying its efforts to achieve even better results. Among the steps being taken for this purpose are:—

(i) Opening of new tourist offices in those areas of the world where there is good potential for tourist traffic to India. New offices will be opened during the current year in Tehran (Iran), Bangkok (Thailand), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Perth and Melbourne (Australia).

(ii) Production of tourist literature on India in 13 European languages instead of 5 as at present. In

addition, Department of Tourism is producing tourist literature in Arabic, Persian, Thai, Japanese and Chinese languages.

(iii) Introduction of "Travel As You like" Tickets on Indian Railways and "Discover India" Tickets on Indian Airlines payable in foreign exchange for the benefit of foreign visitors.

(iv) Relaxation of entry formalities such as issuance of landing permit on arrival to be valid for 30 days.

(v) Organisation of familiarization tours to India of travel writers/tour operators from different parts of the world to enable them to see our facilities.

मध्य प्रदेश में विभिन्न स्थानों का पर्यटन केन्द्रों के रूप में विकास

804. श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण नायक : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने देश में प्रमुख पर्यटन स्थलों की सूची में मध्य प्रदेश के चित्रकूट, खजुराहो और ओरछा को शामिल किया है ;

(ख) इन ऐतिहासिक तथा सांस्कृतिक महत्व के स्थानों का विकास करने के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है अथवा करने का विचार है ; और

(ग) चित्रकूट, खजुराहो और ओरछा के विभिन्न सुरम्य स्थानों और सांस्कृतिक स्थलों तक पहुंचने के लिए पहुंच मार्गों का कब तक निर्माण कर लिया जायेगा ।

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री पुरुषोत्तम कौशिक) (क) से (ग): फिलहाल केन्द्रीय क्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत पर्यटन केन्द्रों के विकास का निर्धारण इन केन्द्रों