

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Karnataka	470	2350	1748	1900	2160
9.	Kerala	470	2350	1694	1860	2120
10.	Madhya Pradesh	780	3900	2780	2940	3352
11.	Maharashtra	790	3950	2996	3200	3652
12.	Manipur	11	55	40	44	50
13.	Meghalaya	15	75	40	60	68
14.	Nagaland	10	50	40	40	48
15.	Orissa	450	2250	1730	1820	2072
16.	Punjab	135	675	532	550	632
17.	Rajasthan	240	1200	984	960	1100
18.	Sikkim	8	40	32	32	36
19.	Tamil Nadu	890	4450	3120	3600	4100
20.	Tripura	33	165	120	132	152
21.	Uttar Pradesh	1705	8525	7026	6880	7844
22.	West Bengal	770	3850	2828	3110	3548
Total States		9947	49735	37616	39910	45506

*The programme was launched in 1983-84 only.

Phasing out of Freight Equalisation Policy

280. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the principal reasons for the quasi-stagnation of the Eastern States is the freight equalisation policy ; and

(b) if so, the steps so far taken by Government to phase out the policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) and (b). It is difficult to attribute the development or stagnation of a particular region to freight equalisation policy. The issue regarding freight equalisation was gone into by the National Transport Policy Committee (Pande Committee). The Government have accepted, in principle, the recommendations of this Committee to phase out gradually the existing Freight Equalisation Schemes in respect of goods like cement and steel subject to subsidisation of transport for remote, inaccessible and isolated areas. The concerned Ministries namely the Ministry of Industry and Company Affairs and the Ministry of Steel and Mines have been requested to work out

appropriate schemes/modalities of phasing out freight equalisation in respect of cement and steel respectively and these Ministries are now engaged in this task.

Restrictions on the Movement of Tourists in Sikkim

281. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that because of restrictions on the movement of tourists in some areas in Sikkim, tourist traffic in the State is very much hard-hit ;

(b) whether any representation has been received from Sikkim Government for the removal of the restrictions ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). In response to a representation from the Government of Sikkim it has been explained to them that from time

to time Government of India have been reviewing the restrictions imposed on the movement of foreigners in Sikkim ; only last week Government of India have relaxed the procedure for entry of foreigners into Sikkim.

Agencies Probing on the Crash of Air India Jambo Jet 'Kanishka'

282. SHRI T. BASHEER :

SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA :

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the agencies probing on the crash of the Air India Flight 'Kanishka' ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : Government of India has appointed Justice B.N. Kirpal of the Delhi High Court as a Court to hold a formal investigation of the accident, under Rule 75 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937. Preliminary investigation was conducted by the Inspector of Accidents appointed by the Director General, Civil Aviation.

Discussion to Boost Tourism In West Bengal

283. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minister of Forest and Tourism of West Bengal met him on 25 June, 1985 in New Delhi and discussed with him the need to boost tourism in West Bengal ;

(b) if so, details of the discussions that took place ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government on the request made by the Minister of Forest and Tourism of West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) A meeting was held between the West Bengal Minister of State in-charge of Tourism and the Union Minister of State for Tourism and Civil Aviation on 13th

June, 1985 and not on 25th June, 1985.

(b) and (c). The following are the details of the discussions that took place :—

(i) Construction of Tourist Lodge and cottages at Digha to be considered for execution by the State Agency after obtaining necessary clearance from Central Public Works Department.

(ii) New Schemes which were discussed in the meeting were introduction of rafting & canoeing on the rapids Rangeet—Tista & the creeks of the Sunderbans ; tourist facilities at Bijanbari in Darjeeling District, introduction of launch cruise on the Hoogly. However, the details of these schemes are awaited from the State Government.

(iii) For the construction of pilgrim's sheds at Sagar Island, a representative of Bhartiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti would hold discussions with the district authorities for speedy implementation of the scheme.

(iv) For the relaxation of restriction of foreigner's visit to North Bengal, it was agreed that the matter would be further pursued with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(v) For increasing the number of flights from and to Calcutta, the State Govt. was requested to consider reduction of sales-tax on aviation fuel so as to give incentive to foreign airlines.

(vi) The West Bengal Minister requested the Union Minister to ensure proper publicity of West Bengal tourism in foreign countries. The Union Government officials assured that no effort was being spared in this regard. However, the State Government should on its part supply Central agencies with sufficient publicity materials regarding places of tourist interest in order to supplement Central efforts.

Manufacture of Tele-Communication Equipment

284. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to encourage private sector to manufacture tele-communication equipment ;