

(SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). Statistics of foreign tourists visiting various destinations in the country are not compiled. However, as per the Foreign Tourist Survey 1982-83, 17.01 per cent of total foreign tourists who visited India, spent at least a night in Agra.

(c) Basic facilities to be availed of by the tourists, by and large, are available at Agra but recently some reports have appeared in the press regarding uncleanliness of the city.

(d) Creation of civic amenities and beautification of the city is primarily the responsibility of the State Government and a number of proposals are being considered by them for the same. These include plantation of trees on both sides of the road, augmentation of facilities for drinking water etc. The Central Department of Tourism has already assisted in a scheme for flood-lighting of Agra Fort.

#### Imposition of Excise Duty on Labelled Beedies

3934. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the imposition of excise duties on labelled beedies had done great harm to the workers; and

(b) the action taken on small and unscrupulous beedi manufacturers who were taking advantage of the levy to deny statutory benefits including bonus to workers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) There are no authentic reports with the Central Government to the effect that imposition of excise duties on labelled or branded beedies has done great harm to beedi workers.

(b) The Central Government do not have any information regarding denial of statutory benefits including bonus to workers. The appropriate authorities for looking into such matter would be the State Governments.

#### Decline in Balance of Trade Deficit

3935. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's foreign trade situation has shown a significant improvement during 1984-85 especially in the sphere of exports;

(b) if so, to what extent the foreign trade situation has improved;

(c) if so, to what extent this has resulted in a decline in the balance of trade deficit;

(d) the main reasons for this improvement; and

(e) the steps being taken to improve the position further ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). According to the latest available updated data, India's overall exports during the financial year 1984-85 amounted to Rs. 11493.72 crores which were 18.1% higher than the corresponding updated data of Rs. 9729.91 crores in the preceding year 1983-84. At the same time, imports during 1984-85 reached a level of Rs. 16812.93 crores, registering an increase of 7.9% over the level of imports of Rs. 15587.77 crores in the preceding year. Consequently, there has been a reduction in the balance of trade deficit from Rs. 5857.86 crores in 1983-84 to Rs. 5319.21 crores in 1984-85. Thus India's foreign trade situation has shown improvement during 1984-85 especially in the sphere of exports, resulting in a decline in the balance of trade deficit.

(e) Policy measures are being continuously evolved for increasing India's exports. These include measures for increasing and diversifying the production, making our exports more competitive, finding new markets for our products and processing commodities for higher value realisation. Efforts would be made to gear up these measures further during the Seventh Plan period.