

Development of more spots in Satpuda Hills at Maharashtra

1507. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to State:

(a) how many hot-streams, with beautiful mountains at the background have been developed as tourist centres;

(b) have Government decided to develop some more spots which are situated in the Satpuda Hills of Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KARTIK ORAON):

(a) None so far in the Central Sector.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Demand from income-tax payers for raising minimum taxable limit

1508. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that there is demand from the income tax payers that the minimum limit of taxable income be raised upto 20,000 rupees per annum; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider the demand and raise the limit from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have received some suggestions for raising the exemption limit in respect of personal income-tax to Rs. 20,000.

(b) The Government's reaction and other suggestions relating to taxation policies will be reflected in the regular Budget.

Trade between India and Hungary

1509. SHRI SHIV KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Foreign Minister of Hungary who recently visited India had discussion with him for boosting the trade between the two countries;

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussion about the import and export of commodities and the extent to which India will be beneficiary; and

(c) the total amount for which the trade agreement has been reached?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Although the Hungarian Foreign Minister's visit was primarily in the nature of a courtesy call, opportunity was taken to make a general review of Indi-Hungarian trade.

(c) No Trade Agreement was concluded during this visit.

Impact of import of oil on foreign exchange

1510. DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group of energy policy has warned that continued import of oil will lead to near bankruptcy of foreign exchange in 2000 A.D.;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that foreign exchange reserves are fast depleting;

(c) the reasons which have led to this position;

(d) what steps are being taken to improve the foreign exchange; and

(e) what is the position of foreign exchange at present?