

Development of Nilgiris as a Tourist Resort

6815. SHRI R. PRABHU : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the proposals of the Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation included in the Seventh Plan for development of Nilgiris as tourist resort in the Seventh Plan;

(b) whether the proposals include setting up of hotels and improvement of communications; and

(c) the number of foreign and Indian tourists who visited Nilgiris during the years 1982, 1983 and 1984 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b). The Department in consultation with the State Government has identified 18 centres in Tamil Nadu for phased development in the Centre, State and the Private Sector. Uthagamandalam in the Nilgiris is one of the centres. There is, however, no proposal with the Department for the development of the Nilgiris.

(c) Reliable statistics of yearly tourist arrivals in Nilgiris are not available. However, as per the Foreign Tourist Survey 1982-83 about 1.4 per cent of the foreign tourists visiting India spent at least a night in Uthagamandalam in the Nilgiris.

Difficulties in Remitting earnings faced by Indians Working in African Countries

6816. SHRI R. PRABHU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian professionals working in several African countries are facing problems in remitting their earnings to India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even after their repatriation from these countries their salaries have yet to be remitted to the repatriates by the Central Banks of these countries;

(c) the names of countries where such problems exist and the steps that are proposed to be taken to ensure that the Indian repatriates get back their legitimate dues ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. We have received reports of problems faced by some of our nationals in some African countries, in remitting the admissible amounts of their earnings, even in some cases, after their return to India.

(c) Such problems have been encountered in Nigeria, Zambia, Tanzania and Uganda. The Government of India have made representations to the authorities concerned. These countries have appreciated the problems and are agreeable in principle to allow remittances. However due to foreign exchange difficulties and the critical economic situation they have not been able to permit remittances at present. Our efforts in this regard are continuing.

“Setting up of National Environmental Monitoring Organisation”

6817. DR. B. L. SHAIKESH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up National Environmental Monitoring Organisation to build a sound information base for fertiliser, chemical, cement and mining industries so as to assess the effluent discharged by these industries;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) to (c). It is proposed to set up a National Environmental Monitoring Organisation (NEMO) for generating data on wide range of environmental parameters. NEMO will be designed to cover air, water and soil quality monitoring source monitoring, monitoring of toxic waste dumps, heavy metals, environmental impact assessment of developmental activities, area specific monitoring, etc.

The organisational structure, locations and sites for monitoring stations, parameters to be covered, methodologies to be adopted, etc., are being worked out. NEMO is conceived to have a decentralised structure fully utilising the existing monitoring facilities available with the Universities, IITs, Research Institutions, Central and State Pollution Control Boards, etc.