

Statement

Statement showing the import of complete machinery and equipment (excluding spares & Components) during the years 1982-83 and percentage rise (+) or fall (—).

Sl. No.	Description of Item	1982-83	Value in Rs. Crores
			Percentage rise (+) or fall (—) in 1982-83 over 1981-82
I.	Complete Machinery and Equipment	1213.08	(+) 25.9

Source : Advance data received in the Office of the Economic Adviser from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta.

Import of Luxury Item

2903. SHRI MOTILAL HANSDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the total value of each luxury item imported year-wise from 1982-83 to 1985-86 (upto September, 85) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : Import Policy does not allow import of luxury goods for commercial purposes. Import of certain consumer goods such as dry fruits and fresh fruits are allowed having regard to bilateral trade considerations and keeping in view the limited needs of the economy. The import of car and household effects are also allowed on transfer of residence. In the absence of specific mention of luxury items, it is not possible to furnish statistics of imports.

Development of Tourist Centre At Maihar

2904. SHRI AZIZ QURESHI : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that thousands of people visit Maihar in Satna District in Madhya Pradesh to offer prayers at the temples of Sharda Mata and also take part in the annual Ustad Alluddin Music Festival from India and abroad;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to develop Maihar town as a tourist centre and provide modern facilities there;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government of Madhya Pradesh has acquired land for construction of a cafeteria and washroom to provide modern facilities at temple of Sharda Mata at Maihar. These facilities are expected to be in operation during this year.

(d) Does not arise.

Opening of a Coffee Auction Centre in Wayanad in Kerala

2905. SHRI P. A. ANTHONY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the serious problems facing the coffee growers; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to open a coffee auction centre in Wayanad in Kerala to partly solve the grievances of coffee growers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) No, Sir. Coffee has provided steady and remunerative returns to growers over the

years. Coffee Board has been able to take steps to solve the problems which have occurred from time to time.

(b) No, Sir. Coffee Board has not received any proposal relating to such a demand by Coffee growers of Kerala.

Visit by Foreign Tourists to India

2906. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of foreign tourists who visited India during the year 1983-84 and 1984-85 (todate);

(b) whether the number of foreign tourists to India had declined during the year 1983-84 and 1984-85;

(c) the total number of tourists out of (a) above who visited Jammu and Kashmir State with special reference to Ladakh during the above period; and

(d) the reasons for decline of foreign tourists and the steps taken by Government to attract more foreign tourists to India ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). Foreign tourist arrivals, excluding the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh, since 1982 were as given below :—

Year	Number	%Change
1982	860,178	—
1983	884,731	2.9
1984	852,503	—3.6
1985 (Jan-Oct)	660,624	—6.7*

*Compared to corresponding period of previous year.

(c) Reliable statistics of foreign tourists visiting different State/places in the country are not available on a regular basis. However, as per the Foreign Tourist Survey 1982-83 about 8.56% of the total foreign tourists visiting India spent at least a night in

the State of J and K and about 0.96% in Ladakh.

(d) The decline in tourist arrivals during 1984 and in 1985 is due to the adverse media coverage of some of the events that took place in the country in the latter half of 1984 and in the first half of 1985. The steps taken by the Government to attract more tourists include vigorous publicity campaign to counter-act the effects of adverse media coverage, emphasis on consumer advertising, stepping up of public relations with tour operators and travel agents abroad, participation in international travel fairs and exhibitions and expansion of internal transport systems etc.

Increase in Bank Charges for Services Rendered by Public Sector Banks

2907. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether commercial establishments have protested against the recent increase in bank charges for various services rendered by the public sector banks as reported in the 'Economic Times' of 18th October, 1985;

(b) whether this increase substantially affects the costs of operation for many establishments particularly the small and medium ones;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) whether any relief would be given to small business in regard to bank service charges ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). Government have received some representations regarding the upward revision of the service charges by public sector banks. These revisions have, however, been effected with the objective of covering to a substantial extent the cost incurred by the banks in rendering such services. The schedule of revised service charges provides for graded structure with lower rates on smaller requirements. Besides, bank charges do not normally form a substantial portion of the cost of operation