

**Transfer of Foreign Exchange to Pakistan
and Misuse of Foreign Travel Scheme**

1000. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

SHRI BRAJA MOHAN
MOHANTY :

DR. A.K. PATEL :

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD
SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in 'Hindustan Times' of 11th October, 1985; that India has been giving thousands of dollars daily at the rate of 500 dollars per person to Jhuggi Jhompari dwellers at Turkman Gate, Delhi and others for going to Pakistan to meet their relations who apply on forms of 'Foreign Travel Scheme' and this money is being utilised by Pakistan for purchasing arms and ammunition from U S A ;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether Government have considered the proposal that the Indians going to Pakistan should be given Pakistan currency instead of dollars and if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the amount of dollars that has reached Pakistan from India as per the statistics available for the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes,
Sir.

(b) Any person resident in India, irrespective of age, proceeding to any foreign country, including Pakistan, under the Foreign Travel Scheme (FTS) is eligible to obtain from an authorised dealer, foreign exchange upto U.S. \$ 500/-, or its equivalent, once in two years. Further, under the Neighbour-hood Travel Scheme (NTS) a person resident in India, irrespective of age, is eligible to visit any country in the neighbourhood group of countries, including

Pakistan, and to the release of foreign exchange upto U.S. \$ 250/-, or its equivalent, once in two years. The foreign exchange thus taken out of India to any foreign country, including Pakistan and utilised there by the passengers, becomes the foreign exchange earnings of that country who may use it for any purpose. The Government has not come across any racket where the Pakistan authorities or Pakistan International Air-lines have sponsored passages of the Indians to Pakistan with the sole intention of earning more foreign exchange for Pakistan.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(d) The information, to the extent possible, is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Facilities to Attract More Tourists

1001. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA ;

SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :

Will the Minister of PARLIAM-
MENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM
be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the present tourism industry is looking after only the rich and privileged class;

(b) whether it is also a fact that all the present facilities are being given to those people who belong to upper income group;

(c) whether Government propose to build the necessary infrastructure in the form of cheap and reasonable accommodation as well as provide facilities to travel at a reasonable cost to attract more tourists, from abroad as well as from within the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Govern-
ment in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIA-
MENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM
(SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b).
No, Sir.

(c) and (d). The Central Department

of Tourism during the 7th Plan propose to construct a chain of Yatri Niwases in collaboration with the State Government/UT Administration with a view to providing clean accommodation for tourists both domestic and foreign. The tariff for the Yatri Niwases is expected to range from Rs. 15 per bed in a dormitory to Rs. 60 for a double room. These Yatri Niwases would be constructed selected tourist centres i.e. places of historical and cultural interests, holiday and mountain resorts, metropolitan and business-cum-transit centres.

Department of Tourism has set up a society called Bharatiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti for the construction of Yatrikas/Dharamshalas/Musfir Khanas at the important pilgrim centres in the country to enable persons belonging to middle and low-income groups to travel to places of religious and tourist interest.

In a recent State Tourism Ministers' meeting, State Tourism Corporation were requested to work out package tours for tourist spots within their jurisdiction. These could be inter-linked with package tours available in other States. Some of the States have already operated certain packages successfully.

Tourist Package Schemes for Public Servants According to their Salaries

1002. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMAN-GALAM : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to cater to the hotel needs of average citizen;

(b) if so, the details of the plan;

(c) whether Government propose to downgrade some of the existing losing and ailing hotels;

(d) the total annual subsidy provided by the Hotel Corporation of India for international travellers stopping in the country *en-route* and details of the new 'India on the House' scheme; and

(e) whether Government propose to

introduce tourist package scheme for public servants according to their salaries ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). The Department of Tourism approves hotels including those of 1 and 2 star categories, which offer clean and comfortable accommodation for budget tourists. In order to further cater to the hotel needs of average citizens, the Department proposes to construct a chain of Yatri Niwases in collaboration with the State Governments/Union Territories. The Department has also set up a Society called the Bharatiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti for construction of Yatrikas, Dharamshalas, etc. at important religious centres in the country to provide inexpensive accommodation to average citizen.

(c) There is no such proposal. Classification and reclassification of hotels is linked with the standards of facilities and services provided.

(d) The India Tourism Development Corporation is offering a stop-over tour in co-operation with Air India to encourage long haul international travellers to stop over at the four international airports in India at \$ 19 for twenty four hours. The stop-over facility is not subsidised by the Hotel Corporation of India or any other agency.

(e) No such Scheme is under consideration of the Department of Tourism.

Proposal to Change Rules in Respect of LIC Claims

1003. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMAN-GALAM :

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :

SHRI MANIK REDDY :

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in a recent dog-bite case in village Bhadol in Gujarat, Life Insurance Corporation refused to admit a claim as