

Decline in Tourism Growth Rate

1816. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether tourism growth rate has been declining continuously for the past many years;

(b) if so, whether Government have ascertained the causes of this decline;

(c) if so, whether some concrete steps have been taken by Government to increase this rate; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) (a) and (b). No, Sir. The growth rates in foreign tourist arrivals, excluding the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh, during the past five years are as given below :-

Year	Growth rate (%)
1980	4.6
1981	6.6
1982	0.8
1983	2.9
1984	3.6

The economic recession in most of the tourist generating countries towards the beginning of 1980s and the adverse media coverage to some events in India during 1984 have affected foreign tourist movements.

(c) and (d). The steps taken by the Government to increase tourist traffic in the country include re-orientation of publicity campaign giving emphasis on consumers advertising, stepping up of public relations with tour operators and travel agents abroad, participation in international travel fairs and exhibitions, expansion of internal transport systems, development of infra-structure for holiday tourism in addition to cultural tourism etc.

[English]

Seizure of Gold Biscuits and Foreign Currency in Bombay

1817. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the press reports appearing in the 'Times of India' of 14th September, 1985 where it has been stated that gold biscuits worth Rs. 3.40 crores as well as Indian and foreign currency valued at Rs. 1 crore have been seized in Bombay;

(b) if so, whether any arrest has been made in this regard; and

(c) the action taken by Government in regard thereto ?

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

(c) Three persons found involved in this case have been arrested under the Customs Act. Gold, foreign currency and Indian currency totally valued at Rs. 4.77 crores have also been seized under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962.

Annual General Meeting of World Bank and IMF held in Seoul in October 85

1818. SHRI ANAND SINGH : SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 40th Annual General meeting of the World Bank and the IMF was held at Seoul in October this year;

(b) if so, the specific subjects discussed therein; and

(c) the outcome thereof in so far as it relates to India and the Indian Sub-continent ?

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