

1948 to give funds to the District Administration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Tourism in Arab countries

1864. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken steps to promote Indian tourism in Arab countries;

(b) if so, the details of Arab countries in which publicity has been organised to attract Arabian tourists to India;

(c) the response made to the publicity given by Indian Tourist officials in that country; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The Department of Tourism has recently shifted its office in West Asia from Kuwait to Dubai. The Department has also opened an office in Bahrain. These Tourist Offices undertake publicity and promotional campaigns with special reference to the Gulf countries namely—UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait.

(c) and (d). The response received has been quite encouraging as can be seen from the tourist arrivals figures from West Asia during the last three years as given below :

1985	1986	1987
90,820	1,15,696	1,21,952

Development of tourist centres in Konkan

1885. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many spots of natural beauty in the Konkan region of Maharashtra which provide ideal sites for tourism are not properly exploited to build tourist centres;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether the Centre would take special interest in the matter and allocate adequate funds for tourist centres in Konkan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) :

(a) to (c). The Central Ministry of Tourism does not allocate funds either State-wise or region-wise. Identification of tourist centres for development of infrastructure and formulation of proposals for Central financial assistance are done by the State Governments concerned. The Ministry provides financial assistance to States on the basis of specific proposals received from the State Governments.

On the basis of proposals received from the Government of Maharashtra, the Ministry has already sanctioned projects for construction of a Beach Resort at Velneswar and Beach Cottages at Ganpatipule in the Konkan region of the State. As and when further proposals are received from the State Government for creation of tourism infrastructure in the region, the Ministry will take up these proposals for financial assistance subject to potential of the place, existing and projected tourist traffic, existing infrastructure, merits of the proposal, availability of funds and inter-se priorities.

[Translation]

Transportation charge on Imported wheat

1886. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : SHRI RAM'DHAN :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :