

Export Processing Zone near Calcutta

968. SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI C. R. MAHATA:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of West Bengal have approached Government to set up an export-processing zone near Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL) (a) and (b). The Government of West Bengal had sent a proposal to the Central Government in 1973 regarding setting up an export processing zone near Calcutta. In May-June 1976, a general decision was taken by the Central Government not to set up any further free trade zones in the country. This decision was communicated to the West Bengal Government in June, 1976. Thereafter in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1709 answered on 24th June, 1977 it was mentioned that no proposal for revision of the general decision taken in May-June, 1976 of not having any further free trade zones was presently under consideration.

In view of the above, the Question of setting up an export processing zone in the Salt Lake Area does not arise at present.

Development of Domestic Tourism

*969. **SHRI CHITTA BASU:**

SHRI M. A. HANNAN ALHAJ:

Will the Minister of **TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION** be pleased to state:

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(a) whether Government have any specific proposal to develop domestic tourism;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) what particular efforts have been made for making domestic tourism cheaper?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) to (c). The Department of Tourism has constructed a number of Tourist Banglows, Travellers Lodges and Youth Hostels for the convenience of both Indian and foreign tourists of the middle and low income groups, which are located at various places of tourists interest all over the country. It is also proposed to construct camping sites at selected places. The India Tourism Development Corporation is laying emphasis in its accommodation programme on the construction of hostels which cater to the requirement of middle income group of tourists. Recently a feasibility study for construction of a Janata Hotel at New Delhi has been undertaken. The intention is to make hotel accommodation available at low tariff.

The State Governments and local authorities concerned and other private organisations are providing community centres, dharamshalas, sarais etc., in areas where such accommodation is required.

Payment of Export Subsidies to Jute Mills

970. **SHRI CHITTA BASU:** Will the Minister of **COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are dues to the credit of the jute mills from the Union Government on account of payment of export subsidies; and