

The measures mentioned are above meant to augment tourist infrastructural facilities to cope with the increasing requirements of tourists for accommodation, as well as air and surface transportation.

Total Man-hour Loss as a Result of Strike by Officers of Nationalised Banks

874. SHRI L. L. KAPOOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the officers of the nationalised banks resorted to pen-down strike during May-June, 1978 ;

(b) if so, the total man-hours loss during their strikes ; and

(c) what action has been taken (disciplinary) on those who resorted to strike ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL) : (a) No, Sir. No pen-down strike by officers of nationalised banks has been reported during May-June 1978. However, a large number of officers in public sector banks went on a token strike on 12th June 1978 to protest against the implementation of Pillai Committee Scheme of Standardisation of pay scales, allowances and perquisites of officers of public sector banks.

(b) Information on total man-hours lost during the strike on 12th June, 1978 is not available.

(c) Indian Banks' Association had instructed the banks to deduct prorata wages from the salary of those employees who went on strike on 12th June, 1978.

Lifting of Ban on Foreign Tourists to Visit West Bengal

875. SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India are actively considering to lift the ban on foreign tourists in West Bengal ; and

(b) if not, what alternative proposals have been adopted by the Tourist Department to boost up the tourist attention in the State as the West Bengal Government has lost significant revenue due to ban of foreign tourists in the northern region of the State like Darjeeling, Kalimpong, etc. ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI

PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK) : (a) and (b). There is no ban on foreign tourists visiting West Bengal excepting the five northern districts of Darjeeling, Cooch-Bihar, Jalpaiguri, Malda and West Dinajpur which have been declared as restricted areas. Foreigners desiring to visit these areas require permits from the Government. However, in the interest of promoting tourism, certain relaxations have been made and foreign tourists are now granted permits liberally for stay upto 7 days in Jaldapara and Darjeeling. These permits are issued by the Indian Missions abroad or the Foreigners Regional Registration Officers in Bombay, Calcutta Delhi and Madras. In addition foreign tourists, who travel to Bagdogra and back by air, are allowed to visit Darjeeling town and nearby places like Tiger Hill, Ghoom, Kurseong town, Sandakphu, Phalut etc. for the purposes of tourism for a period of 15 days without a permit.

नई दिल्ली से जबलपुर तक सौधी उड़ान

876. श्री शरद यादव : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या नई दिल्ली से जबलपुर को हवाई जहाज की सीधी उड़ान है ; और

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो क्या इस बारे में सरकार किसी प्रस्ताव पर विचार कर रही है और यह सेवा कब तक चालू हो जाएगी ?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री पुढकोत्तम कौशिक) : (क) जी, नहीं। दिल्ली खालियर भोपाल-जबलपुर रामपुर तथा वापसी की एक "स्टॉपिंग" सेवा है।

(ख) इंडियन एक्सप्रेस का फिरोहाल ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।