

unspoiled tracts left by the modern culture but still the tourism is flourishing in the north whereas it is deteriorating in the eastern region;

(b) is it not due to the failure of Government to persuade Foreign Airlines to touch down at Calcutta airport, the gate way of eastern India; and

(c) if so, what are the active plans of the Government in hand to develop eastern region for Tourism as an Industry?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) Government are aware of the tourism potential of the Eastern Region and travel to the centres of tourist interest in the region is promoted by the offices of the Department of Tourism in India and overseas through the various publicity media.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The proposals of the States/Union Territories in the Eastern Region were discussed at the recent State Tourism Ministers Conference which recommended the selection of two tourist centres for development in each State/Union Territory in the country in the Central sector. The details of the schemes for development in the Eastern Region and the relative priorities to be accorded will be finalised in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territories concerned. The Department of Tourism has a promotional programme whereby media representatives and travel agents from overseas are invited to India to collect first hand information on the country's tourist attractions/facilities. During 1977-78, 41 such media representatives and 25 travel agents were invited to the Eastern Region, and the 1978-79 programme also includes such visits. A special programme of 10-12 days for promotion of Eastern India by inviting media representatives and travel agents has been planned for Febru-

ary/March 1979 in collaboration with the State Governments of Orissa, West Bengal, Assam and Bihar.

The procedure for permitting foreign tourists to visit Darjeeling, Sikkim, Kaziranga, etc. has also been simplified.

Facilities for Tourists at Sewagram in Wardha District

2843. SHRI SANTOSHRAO GODE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Sewagram has been internationally known as tourist centre in Wardha District of Maharashtra State; and

(b) what are the facilities provided at Sewagram for the national as well as international tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b). Recognising the importance of Sewagram, the Central Department of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 14.77 lakhs towards the construction of a Yatri Niwas. There is a provision of 80 beds in the proposed unit, which would cater to both Indians as well as international tourists. The construction work is in progress.

New Places on Air Map of India

2844. SHRI HALIMUDDIN AHMAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) details of the new places which will be brought on the Air Map of India during coming two years;

(b) which are the places in Bihar which will be brought on the Air Map during the coming two years;

(c) whether District Purnia will be provided on the Air Route of Indian Air Lines in the near future; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?