

M.P. Government Proposal for Janata Hotel

4634. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh and other State Governments have sent any proposals or the Central Government are considering a proposal to construct Janata Hotels in States to attract more tourists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). No concrete proposal to construct Janata Hotels in States was received from any State Government. However, the Governments of Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Gujarat; Tamil Nadu; Tripura, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Delhi Administration recommended the setting up of Janata Hotels in their States/territories in the Central Sector during the Tourism Minister's Conference held in November, 1978.

Further construction of Janata Hotels in the Central Sector by the Central Government will be considered only after Government have evaluated the operational results, over the first 2-3 years of the Ashok Yatri Nivas at Delhi, which is a pilot project.

Racket in Air Ticket Reservation at Trivandrum Airport for Gulf Countries

4635. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the prevailing racket in air ticket reservation at the Trivandrum Airport mainly to the Gulf countries; and

(b) if so, will Government order an enquiry into such allegations?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). No complaints have been received regarding racket in air ticket reservation from Trivandrum airport to Gulf countries. However, during August and September, 1980, Air-India flights to Gulf countries were a little over-booked which might have given this impression. Air-India has since increased the number of flights from Trivandrum to Gulf from 4 to 7 a week. This capacity is quite adequate and there is no likelihood of a complaint on account of shortage of capacity.

Bank Robberies in West Bengal

4636. SHRI JAI NARAIN ROAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bank robberies in the West Bengal during the current year and the amount looted from there; and

(b) the steps taken by the Central Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). According to the information collected from the commercial banks, there have been 7 dacoities/robberies in the banks located in the State of West Bengal and a total sum of about Rs. 7.77 lakhs has been looted. The banks concerned have reported the matter to the local police authorities.

Growth rate of Tourism in India

4637. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate of tourism in India during the last 3 years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the tourism growth in our country is less than Sri Lanka, Bangladesh or Pakistan, if so, the comparative figures therefor; and

(c) what steps are proposed to increase foreign exchange earnings from tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Figures of international tourist arrivals to India (excluding nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh) during the last three years along-

with percentage increase are as follows:—

Year	Number of tourist arrivals (in lakhs)	Percentage increase over previous year
1977 . . .	6.40	19.9%
1978 . . .	7.48	16.8%
1979 . . .	7.65	2.2%

(b) Comparative figures of total tourist arrivals, and those excluding Indians, in respect of Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan for the last three years alongwith percentage change are given below:—

Country	Number of Tourist Arrivals (in lakhs)			Percentage Change	
	1977	1978	1979	1978/77	1979/78
<i>Sri Lanka</i>					
Total	1.54	1.93	2.50	25.6	29.6
Excluding Indians	1.45	1.78	2.22	23.00	24.5
<i>Bangladesh</i>					
Total	0.45	0.50	0.57	9.3	15.2
Excluding Indians	0.28	0.26	0.29	-8.6	12.5
<i>Pakistan</i>					
Total	2.20	2.91	3.19	32.2	9.3
Excluding Indians	2.12	2.45	2.28	15.4	-7.2

From the above figures, it will be observed that whereas in the case of Sri Lanka the percentage growth in tourist arrivals has shown steady increase, in the case of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan the growth rate has been fluctuating. However, in terms of absolute numbers, India continues to receive more tourists compared to the other three countries.

(c) Within the availability of resources, following measures are proposed to earn more foreign exchange from tourism:—

(1) concerted effort will be made to develop facilities at tourist centres falling along indented travel

circuits within the country by pooling of all available resources in the public and private sectors.

(2) These travel circuits will be extensively promoted abroad for attracting tourists.

(3) By regionalising the flow of tourist along the travel circuits, repeat visits of tourists will be proposed.

(4) The Department of Tourism will intensify its promotional efforts abroad through holding of sales seminars for the staff of travel agencies, airlines in the countries within the area of their jurisdiction, through the screening of films, advertising through newspapers, maga-

zines, TV and radio, participation in exhibitions through displays, etc.

(5) The question of encouraging charter traffic to India and competitive air fares from the tourist generating markets of USA, Europe, Japan, Australia on the basis of bilateral agreements is being pursued.

(6) Existing fleet of national air carriers is being augmented.

(7) By inviting more travel agents, tour operators, travel writers and publicists, TV and film units so that on their return they can promote India.

(8) Efforts are being made to give additional incentives and fiscal reliefs to attract investment in the hotel industry for augmenting hotel accommodation requisite standard.

(9) Inexpensive, clean and comfortable accommodation is being provided for the budget-minded tourists through the construction of Yatri Niwas/Youth Hostels etc.

(10) In order to remove congestion at international airports causing delays in quick clearance of tourists, a new terminal building for international traffic at Bombay Airport has recently been opened. And a new one is planned for Delhi.

(11) Additional facilities for skiing, water sports, trekking etc., are being developed to cater to the tourists interested in recreational activities.

(12) Financial assistance is made available under the Transport Loan Scheme of the Department of Tourism to approved tourist transport operators for augmenting their transport fleet.

Modernisation and Expansion of Manindra Cotton Mills and Bengal Textile Mill

4638. SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for the modernisation and expansion of the Manindra Cotton Mill and the

Bengal Textile Mill of Cossimbazar in West Bengal under the Eastern Zone unit of the National Textile Corporation of any scheme to form a composite textile mill by the merger of the two mills of Cossimbazar one of which is a weaving mill and other a spinning one;

(b) the total expenditure allocated for the modernisation and expansion or reorganisation of those mills and the time by which the work is to be completed; and

(c) the present profit-loss position of these two mills?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Programmes for modernisation, expansion, etc., of Manindra Cotton Mills and Bengal Textile Mills, Cossimbazar involving an outlay of about Rs. 0.76 crores and Rs. 6.92 crores have been drawn up and these programmes are expected to be completed by the end of 1981 and 1985 respectively.

(c) The profit/loss account of these two units for 1979-80 and 1980-81 (April—September, 1980) is given below:—

	Profit-loss (provisional)	
	(I)	(II)
	Manindra Mills	Bengal Textile Mill's
1979-80	(—)31.75	(—)18.46
1980-81 (April-Sept., 80)	(—)12.86	(—)3.58

उन देशों के नाम जिन्हें चीनी का निर्यात किया जायेगा

4639. श्री इशफक हुसैन : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने इस वर्ष चीनी के निर्यात के लिए कोई करार किया है ;