

(ब) तथा (ङ). देश में गन्धक के निक्षेपों का पता लगाने के लिए निरन्तर प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं ।

Concession to Government Employees under Income Tax Act, 1961

1739. SHRI BHEEKHABHAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Section 89FF of the Income Tax Act, 1961 envisages the concession to be given to the Government employees whose gross income is only Rs. 8,000 p.a. is continuing to-date;

(b) if so, the reason why it has not been amended when the net income limit for income-tax purpose has been increased from Rs. 8,000 to 12,000 p.a.;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) is there any proposal to amend it in future; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons for not amending Section 80FF of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) to (e). Under section 80FF of the Income-tax Act, 1961, Indian citizens having a gross total income not exceeding Rs. 12,000 were entitled to a specified deduction in respect of expenses incurred on higher education in certain cases. With the raising of the exemption limit from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000, this provision became redundant and has accordingly been omitted by the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1980. The omission take effect from 1st April, 1981. At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to amend the provisions of section 80FF.

Tourists Centres in every Foreign country to promote Tourism

1741. SHRI C. CHINNASWAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government Tourist Offices overseas are

spread very thinly and also have an insufficient impact in attracting foreign tourists;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only one person in every 250 Tourists world-wide visits India; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to set up Tourist Centres in every country in order to promote our Tourism Industry?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) No, Sir. The Central Department of Tourism maintains 18 Tourist Offices abroad in cities and countries with the maximum potential for the promotion of tourist traffic to India. These offices are located in USA, Canada, UK, Continental Europe, Japan, Thailand, Singapore, Australia and Kuwait. In addition, seven officers have also been posted at vantage points in USA, Australia, Iran and Japan. The tourist traffic to India registered an increase of 12.1 per cent in the decade 1969—79 as against the world average of 5.8 per cent. The average stay of tourists in India in 1979 was 25.6 days as against the world average of four to six days. In actual numbers the tourist traffic more than trebled in the 10-year period 1969—79, from 244, 724 in 1969 to 764,781 in 1979. Thus it cannot be said that Tourist Offices abroad have had an insufficient impact in attracting foreign tourists to India. A statement indicating the location of various tourist offices overseas is placed below.

(b) The ratio of foreign tourist arrivals in India to world-wide visits of tourists was 1 : 353 in 1979.

(c) Tourist Offices in foreign countries are opened as and when the need arises, the primary criteria being the potential of any particular country to generate tourist traffic to India.

Statement

For the promotion of tourist traffic from the countries abroad, 18 Government of India Tourist Offices have been set up in various countries abroad as shown below:—

S.No.	Tourist Office	Jurisdiction
1.	New York	USA, Latin America, Canada and Carribean Islands
2.	Los Angeles	
3.	Chicago	
4.	Toronto	
5.	London	U.K. and Eire
6.	Geneva	Continental Europe
7.	Paris	
8.	Frankfurt	
9.	Stockholm	
10.	Brussels	
11.	Milan	
12.	Vienna	
13.	Tokyo	Japan, Phillipines, Hong Kong and Thailand
14.	Bangkok	
15.	Sydney	Australia, New Zealand, Fiji Islands, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia
16.	Singapore	
17.	Perth	
18.	Kuwait	West Asia

Seven officers are based in Washington i.e., Miami, Dallas and San Francisco in the USA Melbourne in Australia, Tehran in Iran and Osaka in Japan.

Supply of Coal to Bokaro Steel Plant

1742. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as against a minimum requirement of 200 mva the Bokaro Steel Plant is being supplied only 110 mva of coal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during the first fortnight of August, 1980 the steel plant has suffered a loss of Rs. 50 crores and there is threat of equipments being damaged; and

(c) if so, the step taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Presumably, the reference to coal is by mistake and the question actually relates to the supply of power. The contract demand

of power for Bokaro Steel Plant from Damodar Valley Corporation is 145 MVA and the minimum requirement for continuous operation 110 MVA. As against this, the drawal restrictions imposed by the DVC have reportedly been from 5 to 100 MVA for 90 per cent or more of the time during April to October, 1980.

(b) In the integrated operation of a steel plant like Bokaro short-falls of coal, power etc. have a combined effect on the operations and lead to loss in production. The national figure of production loss due to power shortage alone for the first fortnight of August, 1980 as far as it could be computed, is 18,000 tonnes of saleable steel valued at Rs. 5.4 crores. As regards damage to equipment by inadequate or interrupted power supply, it is a fact that the lives of motors, windings of drives etc. are adversely affected.