

Operation of Third Air Level Service by Private persons and Companies

1617. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA:
SWAMI INDERVESH:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to allow private persons and companies to start air-services; and

(b) if so, the routes chosen and names of such parties and their terms ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b) There is no fresh proposal under consideration of Government. However, under the existing regulations private parties can operate air services on routes not operated by either of the Corporations. A statement showing names of parties and routes on which they are permitted to operate is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1983/81]

Flow of Foreign Tourists to Orissa

1618. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in the flow of foreign tourists to Orissa during 1980;

(b) whether Government have any plan to develop the Sea Coast of Orissa to set up places of tourist interests and hotels like the Kovalam in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details of the schemes Government have drawn up ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The India Tourism Development Corporation and the Orissa Tourism Development Corporation are proposing to set up a Beach Complex initially with 30 cottages at Konark as a joint venture. The scheme is under formulation for implementation during the Sixth Five Year Plan 1980-85.

Opening of Tourist Offices in Orissa

1619. SHRI A. C. DAS : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Tourist Offices opened in Orissa in 1980-81;

(b) the places where they are located;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to open some new tourist offices in Orissa during 1981-82;

(d) if so, whether any such new tourist office will be opened near any major railway station of the State ; and

(e) the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA) : (a) to (e). During 1980-81 no Govt. of India Tourist Office has been opened in Orissa. The question of opening of any new Tourist Office at Bhubaneswar will depend *inter alia* on the needs of the area and the availability of resources.

Plan Estimate from Orissa for Nandan Kanan development Project

1620. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA RATH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any plan estimate from Orissa Government for the Nandan Kanan Development Project;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project ;

(c) whether Central assistance will be provided for this Project during the current financial year ; and

(d) the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA):

(a) to (d) The India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) has recently received a proposal from the Government of Orissa relating to the development of an Elephant Safari Park at an estimated cost of Rs. 120 lakhs and a Lion Safari Park, both near Nandan Kanan, at an estimated cost of Rs. 18.50 lakhs. The proposals are being examined with regard to their feasibility and financial participation by ITDC.

Holding up of work of Aluminium Plant at Ratnagiri, Maharashtra

1621. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the work of the public sector aluminium plant in Ratnagiri district of the backward region of Konkan in Maharashtra being held up for years while new aluminium or alumina plants are being cleared in different States ; and

(b) whether Government propose setting up a time limit for commissioning the aluminium plant in Ratnagiri district ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) . The Ratnagiri Aluminium Project which was sanctioned in 1974 could not be taken up for implementation owing to the then financial constraints. A review of the project has since been conducted on the basis of updated cost estimates and it has been found that the project as then conceived would not be economically viable because of the following reasons :

- (a) low scale of operation.
- (b) obsolete technology.
- (c) high cost of power.
- (d) inadequate infrastructure resulting in high cost of material transportation.

The project may become viable if the plants are scaled up to currently economic sizes. It would, however, be necessary to establish adequate reserves of bauxite for sustaining an alumina plant of the requisite capacity. It has, therefore, been decided to conduct further explorations and re-assess the bauxite reserves in the area. Depending on the final picture of the bauxite reserves, a decision on taking up fresh feasibility study for the project will be taken. Since the techno-economic feasibility is not yet clear it is not feasible to set a time limit for commissioning the Ratnagiri Project.

News-item captioned "the case of cardboard Kolhapur Chappals"

1622. SHRI R.K. MHALGI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have noticed the report in the "Statesman", New Delhi dated 18th July, 1980 under the caption "The case of cardboard Kolhapur Chappals" ;

(b) what action Government has taken against the "S.P.S. International Delhi", the defaulting firm ;

(c) what action Government has taken against the Inspector of Export Promotion

Council and against the concerned Customs Official for the reported wrong declaration about the despatch of the consignment Form Delhi Air Port ; and

(d) if no action taken so far, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (d) : Yes, Sir.

The matter is under investigation by CBI. In the mean time, the firm have been suspended from the simplified payment scheme for payment of cash compensatory support. Action has also been initiated by the concerned Leather Export Promotion Council to de-register the firm. The Inspecting Officer of the Export Inspection Agency who was found responsible for certifying the consignment has also been placed under suspension.

As regards action against the concerned Customs Officer, no such involvement has yet been brought to the notice of the concerned customs authorities by the Delhi Police/CBI. Appropriate action will be taken on receipt of Police Investigation report.

Functioning of Rural Banks in Mayurbhanj, Orissa

1623. SHRI MANMOHAN TUDU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and names of the rural banks functioning at present in the Mayurbhanj District of Orissa ;

(b) the number of such banks opened during 1978-79, 1979-80 and 1980-81 in that district ; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to open some more rural banks in this tribal district during 1981-82?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT) : (a) and (b) . A regional rural bank viz, Baitarni Gramya Bank has already been set up on 23-6-1980 covering the districts of Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj of Orissa. However, presumably the Hon'ble Member has in mind the number of branches of commercial banks functioning in rural and Semi-Urban areas of Mayurbhanj District