

Development of Tourist Centres in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Aurangabad

2910. SHRI QAZI SALEEM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals and schemes have been received by the Centre from the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat, as well as from Tourism Board of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Aurangabad (Maharashtra) during 1st January, 1981 to 31st July, 1981 so as to develop various tourist Centres of the respective areas and States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Centre on each one; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) to (d). Proposals for development of tourist facilities at Ukkai and provision of boats for boating facilities at reservoirs in Gujarat at a cost of Rs. 1.25 crores and Rs. 7.00 lakhs respectively have been received from the Government of Gujarat. While no proposals have been received from the Government of Maharashtra or Tourism Board of Maharashtra or Aurangabad, certain proposals received from the Verul Development Committee, Aurangabad were discussed with the Committee representatives who have been requested to send revised proposals through the State Department of Tourism. These are awaited.

Opening of Additional Services between Trivandrum and Gulf Countries

2911. SHRI B. K. NAIR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that Karalites and other South Indians employed in Gulf countries are experiencing a lot of inconvenience, avoidable loss of money and time in their journeys to and from home having to take their flights via Bombay;

(b) whether he is also aware that because of this a good many of them are constrained to travel via Colombo;

(c) if so, whether he is considering any proposal to open additional services between Trivandrum and some suitable cities in the Gulf Area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) At present Air India operates seven services a week between Trivandrum and Gulf points viz. Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Ras-Al-Khayamah and Sharjah. The national carrier is yet to commence operations between Trivandrum on the one hand and Doha, Muscat and Bahrain on the other. These points are however, connected to Bombay with suitable connecting flights to/from Trivandrum.

(b) It is possible that some of the traffic between Trivandrum and Gulf points moves over Colombo.

(c) and (d). Air-India desire to commence operations between Trivandrum and Oman/Muscat/Bahrain. However, the national carrier of the Gulf states viz. Gulfair is opposed to such operations by Air-India and the Civil Aviation authorities of the Gulf States have consequently not accorded clearance to Air-India for such operations so far.