

(d) if so the response made by them; and

(e) the criteria adopted for selecting sites tourist villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) to (e) Yes Sir. The Department of Tourism has under consideration a proposal for the setting up of Tourist Villages. The concept evolved for the Tourist Villages is to give tourists a flavour and feel of village life. They would be located in non-urban areas and preferably on National Highways so as to be easily accessible. A circular was addressed to the State Governments in December 1981 inviting their response to the proposal and requesting them to suggest 3 to 4 likely places for locating the Tourist Villages. The response received from some of the States is quite encouraging. According to the proposal, the land and other infrastructural facilities like approach road, electricity and water would be provided by the State Governments and the Central Department of Tourism would provide funds for the construction of different categories of accommodation and other amenities. The Tourist Villages will be located on any one of the travel circuits identified in each State and Union Territory along National Highways. The actual execution of the scheme will depend upon the availability of funds and *inter se* priorities.

#### Visit of Tourists coming for Asian games 1982 to places of interest

201. SHRI D. M. PUTTE GOWDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes/programmes are in hand for taking round foreign tourists coming for Asian Games, 1982 to places of tourist interest; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b). Government does not arrange tours for foreign tourist. This is done by travel agents. For arranging tours of tourists coming for Asian Games an 'ASIAD' Travel Agents Consortium' has been formed comprising four travel agents. A number of tours and excursions will be offered by this consortium to tourists visiting India for the Asian Games 1982.

#### Formation of Jute Board

202. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force on the jute industry, appointed by the Government, has recommended for the formation of Jute Board;

(b) if so, whether Government have since taken any decision thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Empowered Committee of Secretaries set up to advise the Government on the recommendations of Task Force have advised that, instead of setting up a Jute Board, there should be a permanent Steering Committee on the jute industry in the Central Government to achieve inter-departmental coordination on activities at the field level. Final decision on the advice of the Empowered Committee is yet to be taken by the Government.

#### Fixation of price of W5 Grade of Raw Jute

203. SHRI CHITTA BASU: SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of West Bengal has recently suggested that

the price of W5 grade of raw jute be pegged at Rs. 275.00 per quintal for the next session; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). In January, 1982, officials of West Bengal State Government have suggested a price of Rs. 275 per quintal for W5 grade jute for the 1982-83 season during their discussions with Agricultural Prices Commission who are now looking into the matter. After receiving the recommendations of APC, Government will take necessary steps to fix the minimum support prices of jute for the next season.

#### Sickness in the Jute Industry

204. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI:

SHRI K. MALLANNA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sickness has spread on an epidemic scale to Jute Industry;

(b) if so, how many units have so far been identified as sick; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to revive these units?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). Currently Jute Industry is passing through an un-precedented depression as a result of which most of the mills are sustaining cash loss. High input costs and low sales realisation have affected the entire industry. Government have taken various steps to stimulate demand which includes grant of cash compensatory support on jute goods exports, stepping up purchase of jute bags for packaging of foodgrains, fertilizers cement and sugar; grant of

credit for purchase of raw jute at reduced margins etc.; participating in international level Government consultations under the auspices of ESCAP, UNCTAD and FAO, to stabilise the prices and export earnings of jute producing countries.

#### ITDC Hotels running on profit/loss

205. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of hotels under ITDC which are running on profit or loss; and

(b) the total number of persons working in all such hotels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHUR-SHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) During the year 1980-81, ITDC operated 21 hotels in the country. Out of these, 7 hotels made a net profit of Rs. 278.52 lakhs and the remaining 14 hotels incurred net losses amounting to Rs. 161.26 lakhs. Of the 14 hotels, however, 8 earned operating profits. The net cumulative profit of 21 hotels thus came to Rs. 117.26 lakhs.

(b) As on 31st October, 1981, the total number of employees working in these 21 hotels was 5730.

#### Visit of a Minister of Sri Lanka to India .. .. .

206. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Minister of Sri Lanka visited India during the month of December, 1981 and had discussions over the issue of export of tea;