

(b) whether the growth rate of tourists arrivals had not been satisfactory in the previous two years; and

(c) the number and details of new schemes planned for the growth of tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) A sum of Rs. 72 crores has been allocated for tourism schemes during the Sixth Five Year Plan period in the Central Sector, of which Rs. 30 crores is the outlay for the Central Department of Tourism and Rs. 42 crores for India Tourism Development Corporation. The projected target of foreign tourist arrivals by 1985 is 1.7 million.

(b) In view of prevailing conditions pertaining to economic recession in traffic originating countries and disturbed conditions in some of the neighbouring countries the growth rate of late has not been very encouraging.

(c) The new schemes being undertaken in the tourism sector are the establishment of tourist complexes in keeping with master plans (land-use plans) at a number of centres of archaeological importance; construction of tourist hostels in the North Eastern region; construction of forest lodges and youth hostels; construction of tourist villages; provision of transport, entertainment and outdoor recreational facilities at selected centres; construction of hotels by I.T.D.C. as joint sector ventures with State Governments/State tourism development corporations at selected centres.

India's Trade Deficit with U.K.

1454. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD:

SHRI BHIKHU RAM JAIN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's trade deficit with U.K. had been steadily increasing for the last three years;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to reduce imports from the U.K.; and

(c) whether the U.K. had expressed its cooperation to ease the situation; if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c). It is not the policy of the Government of India to strive for achieving an arithmetic balance between imports and exports in our bilateral trade with each country. Imports are allowed only in those sectors where such imports are essential to meet the requirements of India's industrial and infrastructural development or to ensure minimum supply levels of mass consumption items. Such imports are always made from the most competitive source without regard to the level of India's exports to that country. It is, however, recognised that a high level of imports cannot be sustained unless the exports also grow simultaneously. In this background India has been discussing with the U.K. appropriate measures to help to increase India's exports to that country. At the recently concluded meeting of the Indo-British Economic Committee the U.K. Government agreed to consider positively our proposals for export promotion and marketing programme. The Indian side urged U.K. to encourage their nationalised industries to make more purchases from India and to lend support to India's requests to the EEC for providing greater access for the Indian export items to the EEC market.

Vayudoot Service for Ranchi

1455. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received a proposal to connect Sanchi, an important Buddhist tourist centre of India by Vayudoot service; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). A request has been