

Tourist Facilities at Ajanta and Ellora Caves

4179. SHRIMATI USHA PRAKASH CHAUDHARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to develop tourists facilities at the World famous Ajanta and Ellora Caves in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the money allotted therefor and other details?

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

(b) In order to develop tourist facilities at Ajanta Caves the Ministry of Tourism had issued an expenditure sanction of Rs. 9.36 lakhs in the year 1977-78 to the Govt. of Maharashtra. Besides, ITDC is also operating a Traveller's Lodge at Ajanta and Traveller's Restaurant at Ellora.

Ajanta-Ellora have also been included in the Travel Circuits identified in consultation with the State Government of Maharashtra for an integrated and co-ordinated development, depending on the availability of funds and inter-se priorities.

Opening of Branches by Export and Import Bank in Foreign Countries

4180. SHRIMATI SANYOGITA RANE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Export and Import Bank proposes to open branches in foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the venues selected for opening these branches and the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). Export Import Bank of India presently has no plans to open branches in foreign countries to conduct banking busi-

ness. However, in order to enable it to conduct its operations more efficiently, it proposes to set up a few Representative Offices abroad which will however, not undertake any banking business.

Supply of F-16 Aircraft to Pak

4181. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHRE PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that contrary to the general feelings of apprehensions arising out of the supply of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan, the Indian scientists and technocrats at the Aircraft Systems Testing Establishment, Bangalore have made good progress in pursuing an aircraft which will be of "much higher capability" than F-16 aircraft;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take immediate action to accelerate the production of such an aircraft within the country so that India's supremacy in air remains unchallenged by the foreign planes given to Pakistan;

(c) whether steps have also been taken to modernize the "Jaguar" to give it maritime capability and also to find a successor to 'Gnat' as trainer aircraft for our budding pilots; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) The Aircraft and System Testing Establishment evaluates various aircraft offered to us against well-defined Air Force requirements. This is a part of their routine activity and is not related to acquisition of F-16 by Pakistan.

(b) Government take appropriate measures to maintain full defence preparedness taking into consideration changes that take place in the surrounding threat environment.