

(c) and (d) The growth of LIC's business in India during the years 1978-79 to 1982-83 is set out below :

Year	No. of policies	Percentage variation over preceding year	Sum Assured (in crores of Rs.)	Percentage variation over preceding year
1978-79	1755282	—	2057	—
1979-80	2095839	+ 19.4	2733	+ 32.8
1980-81	1254424	— 6.7	2883	+ 5.5
1981-82	2103134	+ 7.6	3479	+ 20.7
1982-83	2240465	+ 6.5	4005	+ 15.1

AI Divested of Tourism Promotion Efforts Overseas

4313. SHRI K.T. KOSALRAM : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has asked to be divested of the responsibility of overseeing the tourism promotion effort overseas and if so, the reasons thereof; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken for the promotion of overseas tourism ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Overseas Tourist Offices have been set up to promote and develop tourist traffic from the potential markets to India. These Offices undertake advertising and other activities to acquaint the general public and prospective tourists with the varied facets of tourist attractions which India has to offer. Coverage of the tourism scene in India is given through the various communication media like T.V. films, audio visual presentations, India evenings, Food Festivals, partici-

pation in International fairs, exhibitions etc. Besides projecting the image of India as a tourist destination to the general public, a very close liaison is maintained by these offices with major tour operators in arranging package as well as individual tours to India. Familiarisation tours are organised for media and travel trade representatives to give them a first hand knowledge of tourist facilities and attractions of India.

In addition, Department of Tourism is taking steps for promotion of charter traffic, hosting International Conferences/Conventions and opening of new offices Overseas where there is tourist potential for India. Besides these, the Department is paying special attention, in collaboration with the State Governments and the private sector, when required, to the development of facilities at tourist centres, expansion of existing Airports and construction of new airport terminals, improving the quality and availability of surface transport facilities and generally work towards relaxation and smoothening of frontier formalities for tourists.

Export of Peacock Feathers and Porcupine Quills

4314. SHRI V.S. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of peacock feathers and porcupine quills exported to foreign countries during the last three years, year-wise break-up;

(b) the total annual earnings from each of these items;

(c) the names of the major consuming countries;

(d) whether Government have any pro-

posal to put these items under O.G.L.; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

YEAR	Total No. of Peacock Tail Feathers and Articles made therefrom.	Value in Rs.	Destination	Total No. of Porcupine Quills	Value (in Rs.)	Destination
¹ 1980-81	39,67,543	14,28,556/-	West Germany, USA, Belgium, Holland Hong Kong, Netherland, Japan, U.K. Denmark, Sweden, Italy and Singapore.	4,50,00	1,58,813/-	USA, UK, Italy, France, Polland Taiwan.
1981-82	44,81,253	28,49,600/-	Japan, UK, USA, Hong Kong, West Germany, Holland, Singapore, Netherland, Belgium, Denmark.	4,28,674	1,69,617/-	USA, UK, France, Netherland, West Germany.
1982-83	41,92,138	21,83,501/-	Belgium, UK, West Germany, Melbourne, USA, Holland, Netherland, Japan, France, Italy, UAE, Singapore.	4,51,040	2,60,978/-	USA, France, UK, West Germany, Holland, Singapore.