

### Development and Growth of Cultural Tourism

1009. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to carry out surveys to find out the market potentials for tourism;

(b) whether steps are proposed for development and growth of cultural tourism;

(c) whether it is also proposed to withdraw or relax restrictions of visa requirements for the visitors; and

(d) what other new strategy is proposed for promotion of tourist traffic ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) The assessment of market potential for tourism is a continuous process and is made by our overseas offices through constant liaison with travel trade and assessment of the economic situation prevalent in those countries. Further, some of our overseas offices have also undertaken research studies in association with the research authority of the Pacific Area Travel Association (PATA) and other research organisations.

(b) Considering the fact that the cultural heritage of India is the single biggest factor in attracting tourists from abroad, it is a constant endeavour of the Department to identify, preserve and develop within the constraints of resources, places of cultural and historical interest.

(c) The facility of 'landing permit' has been withdrawn till 31st March 1984. The same is however, being given to organised groups handled by approved travel agencies with pre-drawn itineraries.

(d) Apart from various other promotional measures, it is proposed to promote convention traffic and charters. In addition, new overseas offices are proposed to be opened in Sri Lanka, Kuala Lumpur and the

Gulf region to further tap the tourism potential from these areas.

### West Bengal Government Proposal for Development for Ayodhya Hill

1010. SHRI ACHARYA BASUDEB : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of West Bengal have sent a proposal to the Union Government for the development of Ayodhya hill in the district of Purulia ; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In West Bengal out of a number of proposals, including the development of Ayodhya hills, the Department will be taking up two schemes—the development of facilities at Sunderbans and Digha, in the first instance as Central contribution while the State and the Private sectors will be required to make their contribution in accordance with the accepted policy of joint effort in building up the infrastructure in a phased manner.

### माउंट आबू के विकास के लिए केन्द्रीय सहायता

1011. विरदा राम फुलवारिया : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाल ही में राजस्थान के मुख्य मंत्री की अध्यक्षता में माउंट आबू विकास समिति गठित की गई है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि इस समिति ने माउंट आबू के विकास के लिए कुछ कार्यक्रम बनाये हैं ; और