

Decline in Tourists Traffic

1143. SHIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that during the first four months of 1983 there was a negative rate of growth in tourism in the country ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that among the Developing countries India is the only country where the tourist traffic has declined;

(c) if so, what are the facts comparative statistics with South-East Asian Countries ; and

(d) the reasons for decline in rate of tourism growth and the measures propose to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) No, Sir. The international tourist traffic to India (excl. nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh) recorded an increase of 0.7% during the first four months of 1983 compared to the corresponding period of last year.

(b) and (c) The tourist traffic figures for the current year in respect of other developing countries are not yet available. In respect of Singapore, however, for which figures are available for the period January-April 1983, there is a decline of 1.2% compared to the corresponding period of last year.

(d) The main reasons for the low growth recorded during 1983 were inflationary and recessionary trends in the traditional tourist generating markets, disturbed conditions in some of the neighbouring countries, recent changes introduced in the landing permit system, etc. The steps proposed by the Government are promotion of charter traffic, hosting international conferences/conventions, increased marketing and promotion Overseas, opening of new offices overseas

in Sri Lanka, Kuala Lumpur and the Gulf Region; development of facilities at tourist centres falling along identified travel circuits, expansion of existing airports and construction of new air terminals, promoting regional tourism including countries of West Asia, improving the quality and availability of surface transport facilities.

Identification of Person Responsible for Shortage of Coins

1144. Shri R. P. Das : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been able to indentify the person responsible for acute shortag, of small coins all over the country ;

(b) how Government are going to deal with him; and

(c) if failed to identify the responsible person, the reasons for not being a ble to do the same ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANRDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) The shortage of small coins is due to a variety of reasons and not due to any particular individual. To meet the shortage, the Government have decided to step up substantially the production of coins in the country by introducing an incentive scheme in the Mints and also by increasing the working hours of the Mints from 48 hours to 54 hours a week pershift.

Complaints about hoarding of stocks of coins have been received and State Governments have been asked to take action against such hoarders.

Shortage of Coins in Metropolitan Cities

1145. SHRI ARJUN SETHI :
SHRI K. PRADHANI :
SHRI J.S. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;