

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (c) The target set for the arrival of foreign tourists during the Sixth Plan was 1.7 million tourists by 1985. This target is not likely to be achieved as the growth rate during the first four years of the plan period was lower than expected. The low growth rate was due to the recessionary conditions in the major tourist generating countries, disturbed conditions in the neighbourhood of the country and the withdrawal of the landing permit system except for groups

(d) Steps taken to increase the flow of foreign tourists to India include development of tourism infrastructure in the centres of tourist attraction, beautification and flood-lighting of monuments, development of beach resorts, improvement and preservation of national heritage areas, development of facilities for adventure tourism and sports tourism like skiing, trekking etc. and improvement in the quality and availability of surface transport facilities etc. Some further efforts taken in this direction are hosting of international conferences and convention, promotion of charter traffic expansion of air transport facilities both in terms of services and routes, and increased promotional efforts abroad through effective publicity and extension of institutional network.

Opening of Branches of Regional Gramya Banks in States

998. SHRI MANMOHAN TUDU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether his Ministry has advised various State Governments to open more number of Regional Gramya Banks in their respective States;

(b) if so, the number of Regional Gramya Banks functioning in each State as on 31st March, 1984; and

(c) the number of Regional Gramya Banks proposed to be opened in Orissa and other States in 1984-85 financial year ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOLJARY) : (a) The programme of setting up of Regional Rural Banks is being followed up by the Government and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) with the State Governments and the sponsor banks.

(b) There were 159 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) covering 277 districts in the country as at the end of March 1984. Statewise dispersal of these banks is set out in the Statement. At present there are 162 Regional Rural Banks covering 28 districts-one Regional Rural Bank each having been opened in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Bihar during the current financial year so far.

(c) The Budget Estimates for 1984-85 envisage opening of 25 Regional Rural Banks during the current financial year.

In Orissa, 12 of the 13 districts are already served by Regional Rural Banks. The remaining district of Phulbani is also proposed to be served by extending the area of operation of Kalabandi Anchalik Gramya Bank.

Statement

State	No. of Regional Rural Banks Established	No. of districts covered
1. Andhra Pradesh	12	16
2. Assam	5	10
3. Bihar	17	27
4. Gujarat	7	11
5. Haryana	2	5
6. Himachal Pradesh	1	3
7. Jammu & Kashmir	3	10
8. Karnataka	8	13
9. Kerala	2	4
10. Madhya Pradesh	20	35
11. Manipur	1	6
12. Maharashtra	7	13

13. Meghalaya	1	3
14. Nagaland	1	7
15. Orissa	9	12
16. Punjab	3	6
17. Rajasthan	13	26
18. Tamil Nadu	1	2
19. Tripura	1	3
20. Uttar Pradesh	35	41
21. West Bengal	8	15
22. Aarunachal Pradesh	1	4
23. Mizoram	1	3
Total	159	277

**Visit of FICCI Delegation to
Soviet Union**

999. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited Soviet Union during the month of May, 1984 ;

(b) if so, the names of the leader and other members of FICCI delegation who visited Soviet Union ;

(c) discussion held with Soviet counterparts with particular reference to export of engineering goods to Soviet Union and the extent to which the visiting delegation could bring round the Soviet counterpart in their favour ;

(d) whether a Soviet delegation also visited India on reciprocal basis ; and

(e) if so, the names and details of the Soviet delegation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The delegation was led by Shri K.G. Khosla, Chairman and Managing Director, K.C. Khosla Compressors Limited and comprised of the following other members :-

1. Mr. Vinod K. Anand,
Chief Executive,
Beco Engineering Co. Ltd.
2. Mr. D.K. Aggarwal,
KG Khosla Compressors Ltd.
3. Mr. Vikram Kirloskar
General Manager.
The Mysore Kirloskar Ltd.
4. Mr S. P. Punj,
Chairman,
Punj Sons Pvt. Ltd.
5. Mr. H S Sandhu,
Managing Director.
Chinar Export Pvt Ltd.
6. Mr. Vijay M. Shah,
Director,
Perfect Machine Tools Co. P. Ltd.
7. Mr. S.N. Yadav, Sr. Asstt. Secretary. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry.

(c) The primary objective of the delegation was to explore the possibilities for import of sophisticated machine tools and transfer of technology from the Soviet Union to India. Such imports would help in the generation of additional rupee resources which would be utilised in the export of Indian goods including engineering goods.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) does not arise.