

**Steps to Meet Demand for Five Star Hotels**

7493. SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM and CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey of foreign tourists in India made in 1972-73 at the instance of the Department of Tourism showed that 41 per cent of foreign visitors to India expressed preference for five Star Hotels,

(b) whether only 37 per cent visitors expressed preference for other categories of hotels from Four Star to One Star,

(c) whether only 32 per cent visitors were able to get accommodation in Five Star Hotels, and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to meet the increasing demand for five Star Hotels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAI SINGH): (a) and (c) Yes, Sir

(b) The Survey showed that 36 per cent visitors expressed preference for other categories of hotels from Four Star to One Star.

(d) Government is aware of the need for more five Star Hotels in the country but on account of other priorities, the emphasis in the Fifth Five Year Plan of the India Tourism Development Corporation, a public sector undertaking, will mainly be on expanding the infrastructure for middle income tourists. However, hotel projects including those of the five Star category, planned in the private sector are eligible to various incentives offered in the form of fiscal reliefs, financial assistance in the form of institutional loans, priority consideration for essential requirements, etc

**Maintenance Allowance to Students Studying Abroad**

7494. SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the maintenance allowance of the students studying in Universities abroad has been increased; and

(b) if so, what is the percentage of increase and date from which the increase is applicable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Maintenance Allowance has been increased from US dollars 210 per month to US dollars 250 per month in case of studies in the U.S.A. and Canada representing an increase of 19%. In the case of studies in other countries, the allowance has been increased from £ 700/ per annum (£. 750/- in the case of students at Oxford and Cambridge) to £ 900/ per annum representing an increase of about 29%. The new scales have been introduced from 1st April, 1975

**Excise Duty on Films**

7495 SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Film Distributors Association has approached the Central Government for exemption from the excise levy on old and new film prints

(b) whether the new levies would hit hard the film industry and about ten thousand cinemas and other establishments would be closed down

(c) the approximate amount expected to be received by Government through such levy during 1975-76, and

(d) whether Government would consider giving these concerns some relief during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):

(a) No representation from the All India Film Distributors Association appears to have been received by this Ministry.

(b) No Sir.

(c) The changes relating to exposed cinematograph films proposed in the 1975 Budget are expected to yield an

additional revenue of Rs. 1.50 crores during 1975-76.

(d) Various representations requesting for relief are under examination.

#### Income-tax Officers

7496. DR. LAXMINARAIAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Income Tax Officers, Class I working in the Delhi Zone,

(b) whether this number is far in excess of percentage earmarked for Income Tax Officers, Class I *vis-a-vis* other Income Tax Officers;

(c) whether this position is being maintained to the detriment of the promotional chances of the departmental candidates in Delhi;

(d) whether any representations have been received by Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):

(a) and (b) The sanctioned strength and the working strength of Income-tax Officers in the charge of the Commissioner of Income-tax, Delhi is as follows:-

	Sanctioned strength	Working strength
Income-tax Officer (Cl. I).	67	(a) Those appointed on regular basis—67 (b) Income-tax Officers (Class II) provisionally promoted as Income-tax Officers (Class I) on <i>ad hoc</i> basis—25
		TOTAL 92
Income-tax Officer (Cl. II)	162	135
TOTAL	229	227

The working strength of Income-tax Officers (Class I) in a particular Charge is not fixed as a percentage of the working strength of Income-tax Officers (Class II) in that charge.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Suitable reply was sent. During the last 5 months, six Inspectors in the Delhi charge have been promoted as Income-tax Officers (Class II).

(d) what was the quantum of aid given by U.S.A. to India in 1973 and 1974?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):

(a) to (d) The U.S. had proposed an amount of \$ 75 million as aid to India in their foreign Aid Bill for US fiscal year 1975. This provision has however been deleted following substantial reductions in their aid programme.

The U.S. provided debt relief for an amount of \$ 29.34 million for 1973-74. They have agreed to provide debt relief amounting \$ 45 million for 1974-75.

#### Foreign Exchange Regulation

7498. SHRI BISWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S.A. which had promised to give aid to India during 1975, has withdrawn its commitments due to the recent developments;

(b) if so, what was the aid assured;

(c) the extent to which it has been refused; and

(a) whether lot of adverse publicity and misgivings have been created in foreign countries over the enactment of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act;