

Trade agreement with Sri Lanka

540. SHRI RAM SAHAI PANDEY:

SHRI S. A. MURUGANAN-
THAM;SHRI M. RAM GOPAL
REDDY;

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a trade agreement has recently been concluded with Sri Lanka; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the agreement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). No Trade Agreement has been concluded with Sri Lanka recently. However, a meeting of the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission for Economic, Trade and Technical Co-operation, was held on 9th and 10th February, 1976, wherein, *inter alia*, flow of trade between the two countries was reviewed.

Tourist Offices

541. SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons, why the performance of our tourist offices in foreign countries is poor; and

(b) steps Government propose to take to improve their performance and for their effective functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) The performance of Government of India Tourist Offices overseas has been good. The effectiveness of these Offices can be judged from the fact that we have achieved 10 per cent growth in tourist arrivals in 1975 against the worldwide increase of only 2 per cent and

a decline of 15 per cent in long-haul tourism.

2. The Department of Tourism have 14 Tourist Offices overseas in the major tourist markets for promoting tourism to India. Their function include publicity of India's tourist attractions, dissemination of tourist information, organisation of exhibitions and special *India Nights*, release of advertisements and articles in newspapers, issue of monthly newsletters about the latest facilities available in India; exhibition of tourist film documentaries on India through Television network, travel clubs, universities and colleges, etc.

3 The Tourist Offices overseas maintain libraries of tourist films and reference books on India; issue periodic newsletters to travel trade giving latest information about the facilities in India and the new developments taking place in tourism infrastructure. Tourist Offices also promote visit to India of important travel writers, journalists and film makers as guests of the Department of Tourism as a result of which India gets free publicity in travel magazines and on T.V. Circuits etc. Overseas Tourist Offices distribute on an average 4 million copies of tourist literature to potential visitors to India

Chairman, I.T.D.C.

542 SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the C.B.I. inquiry instituted against the Chairman of India Tourism Development Corporation has been completed;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) to (c). A probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation into certain furniture contracts entered into by the India Tourism Development Corporation is under way.

Institutional Credit to landless labourers

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

(a) whether new Schemes have been drawn up to devise alternative agencies to provide institutional credits to landless labourers; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Regional Rural Banks sponsored by the commercial banks are being set up under the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976. One of the main objects of these banks is to attempt effective coverage of small and marginal farmers, landless labourers and rural artisans. Ten such banks have been established by the end of February, 1976. Rural Banks will be providing credit directly as well as through the Farmers, Service Societies whose main object is to provide integrated assistance to farmers particularly to small/marginal farmers and agricultural labourers

The public sector banks have formulated schemes to provide financial assistance to landless agricultural labourers who have been allotted surplus land for their working capital as also for term-loan requirements. These banks are also encouraging and financing landless labourers particularly those released from bonded labour to take up activities allied to agriculture.

भरतपुर के निकट पक्षी बिहार का विकास

544. श्री मूलचन्द्र डागा : क्या पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारत की प्रधान मन्त्री हाल ही में भरतपुर के निकट पक्षी बिहार देखने गई थी ;

(ख) क्या उन्होंने इसके विकास के लिये कुछ सुझाव दिए थे और यदि हा, तो क्या उनके आधार पर इसके विकास के लिये कोई योजना बनाई गई है ; और

(ग) उस पर कितना खर्च किया जायेगा और यह योजना कब तक लागू की जायेगी ?

पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री (श्री सुरेश फाल सिंह) :

(क) जी, हां। 8 फरवरी को प्रधान मन्त्री महोदया निजी रूप से पक्षी बिहार देखने गयी थी।

(ख) और (ग). प्रधान मन्त्री महोदया की राय थी कि पक्षी बिहार में से गुजरने वाली मडक बहा की शान्ति के लिये एक विद्युतबारी तन्त्र है। पक्षी बिहार के लिए एक व्यापक प्रबन्ध योजना पहले ही बनायी जा चुकी है जिसमें पक्षी बिहार के सुधार के लिए अन्य उपायों के साथ-साथ इस विषय पर भी ध्यान दिया गया है। प्रबन्ध योजना अभी सरकार के विचाराधीन है।

निषिद्ध माल का पकड़ा जाना

545. श्री मूलचन्द्र डागा : क्या वित्त मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सीमाशुल्क अधिकारियों ने द्वारिका तथा मोहम्मदी नामक दो जहाजों से 2.25 लाख रुपये के मूल्य की निषिद्ध वस्तुएं पकड़ी हैं और यदि हां, तो इस निषिद्ध