

the reply given to Starred Question No. 85 on the 28th March, 1967 and state:

(a) the extent to which the International Tourist Year has been successful so far;

(b) the number of tourists who have come over to India under the International Tourist Year so far and the names of countries where from they have come; and

(c) the total foreign exchange earned in this regard?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) The two declared objectives of the International Tourist Year are: (1) promoting travel to India and (2) creating an awareness of the importance of tourism within the country. The concessions such as abolition of visa fee, on the spot issuance of visa by the Indian Embassies, extension of the duration of Temporary Landing Permits from 72 hours to 7 days, further liberalisation of Tourist Baggage Rules and other facilities and efforts being made by the overseas Tourist Offices, Indian Missions and offices of Air India are likely to show their results by the end of 1967 when it may be possible to compare the tourist arrivals with those of last year. The celebration of International Tourists Weeks to coincide with Indian festivals at various places in India, is helping in publicising Indian festivals as also in creating an awareness of the importance of tourism within the country.

(b) According to preliminary estimate a total of about 40,800 foreign tourists visited India during the period January to March, 1967 for which the figures are available so far. The tourist arrivals for the same period in 1966 were 38,286. The nationality wise analysis of the figures for the period January-March, 1967 is not yet available.

(c) The foreign exchange earnings due to tourism are estimated for a whole year at the end of the calendar

year. In view of this it is not possible to give figures of foreign exchange earned during the first three months of the International Tourist Year.

Abolition of the Post of Block Development Officers

352. Shri Swell:
 Dr. Karan Singh:
 Shrimati Nirlep Kaur:
 Shri Kishor Singh:
 Shri Barrow:
 Shri R. K. Birla:
 Shri Kailash Bansa:
 Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:
 Shri Bihudi Mishra:
 Shri K. N. Tiwari:
 Shri P. P. Eshoo:
 Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:
 Shri Madhu Linsaye:
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
 Shri George Fernandes:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri S. N. Maiti:
 Shri A. K. Kisku:
 Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhury:
 Shri Yashpal Singh:
 Shri Omkar Lal Borwa:
 Shri R. Bansa:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have issued any directions to the State Governments for the abolition of the posts of Block Development Officers in the States;

(b) if so, the reaction of State Governments thereto; and

(c) the names of States where the post of Block Development Officers has been abolished or is proposed to be abolished with the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Anasahib Shinde): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In Madhya Pradesh posts of Block Development Officers were

abolished with effect from 1st January, 1966. The State Government took this decision, it is understood, mainly on the ground that since bulk of the work in the blocks concerns the agriculture sector, the Department of Agriculture could attend to it directly through its own hierarchy.

Government of India have so far received no specific proposals from any other State Government for the abolition of the posts of Block Development Officers.

Use of Helicopters during Elections

853. Shri George Fernandes:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri J. H. Patel:

Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints regarding the use of a helicopter in contravention of the rules and safety regulations in the election campaign in February, 1967 in Bombay city;

(b) if so, the nature thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Food aid from U.S.A.

855. Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Ram Singh:
Shri Hukam Chand Kachwai:
Shri Yajnik:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state.

(a) whether the allegations that Government have accepted very humiliating terms to secure food under PL 480 agreement and other aids from the United States have been looked into;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) The Government of India have not accepted any humiliating terms to secure food under PL 480 agreement and other aid from the United States.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश और मद्रास में नलकूप लगाना

856. श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 1958 से पहले बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश और मद्रास में क्रमशः कितने नलकूप लगाये गये थे तथा उसके बाद 1966 तक इन राज्यों में कितने नलकूप लगाये थे ;

(ख) प्रत्येक राज्य में क्रमशः कितने एकड़ भूमि में सिंचाई होती है ;

(ग) मरम्मत न होने के कारण प्रत्येक राज्य में कितने नलकूप प्रयोग में नहीं आ रहे हैं ; और

(घ) गत तीन पंचवर्षीय योजनाओं में इन राज्यों में नये नलकूप लगाने तथा पुराने नलकूपों की मरम्मत करने पर क्रमशः कितनी रकम खर्च की गई थी ?

खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री श्रद्धा साहिब शिन्दे) : (क) से (घ). बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश तथा मद्रास सरकारों से अपेक्षित जानकारी मांगी जा रही है और मिलते ही सभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी ।

खाद्यान्नों के मूल्य

857. श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद :

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी :

श्री मधु लिमये :