

Occupancy Rate in Hotels

3388. SHRI MADAN PATIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was fall in occupancy rate in Hotels during the peak season in 1997-98 and 1998-99 as compared to 1996-97 despite the increase in arrival of foreign tourists in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the number of hotels in the country constructed prior to 1982 which are hiking their rates every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) There was a decline in occupancy rate in approved categories of hotels during October to December 1997-98 and 1998-99 as compared to 1996-97. There was also a decline in foreign tourist arrivals during October to December 1998-99 as compared to the corresponding period of 1996-97. The reasons for decline in occupancy rate of approved hotels include high rates of published hotel tariffs in metro cities and the decline in business traffic who prefer to stay in high class hotels.

(c) The hotels have been advised to discontinue the dual tariff system under which foreign tourists are charged at a high rate.

(d) There were 335 approved hotels in the country prior to 1982. However, the tariffs are fixed by the hoteliers themselves and they are not required to report changes in tariffs to the Ministry of Tourism at present.

Liberalisation of Employee's Pension Scheme

3389. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to liberalise the existing Employee's Pension Scheme, 1995 so as to include all the retired employees who are beyond the pensionary limit at present; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Radar System at IGIA

3390. DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI K.S. RAO :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "ATC system goof-up delays flights" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated January 3, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the radar system set up at Indira Gandhi International Airport failed to cope up with the high density traffic;

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(e) the criteria for selecting firms; and

(f) the names of the firms selected for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news-item referred to the problems of the Automated Air Traffic Control System while it was undergoing trial before its commissioning on 11th January, 1999.

(c) and (d) The new radar system was made operational from 11th January, 1999 after carrying out various tests including System Site Acceptance Test (SSAT). Shake down test, and running the system for shadow operations. There were some teething problem inherent in the commissioning of a new project and these have not been taken care of. However, any malfunction which is noticed, will be attended to by the trained technical personnel of Airports Authority of India as well as that of the equipment vendor M/s. Raytheon as per the system of warranty for the equipments.

(e) and (f) The firms were selected by following the procedure of inviting global tenders and after due evaluation of the technical and financial bids for the project.