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Tourists Visiting India

3450. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had a meeting with various International Airlines on January 14, 1999 in which they urged him to give concessions to passengers visiting India during the period to be observed 'Visit India Year' from April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000;

(b) if so, the other concrete measures taken by the Ministry in this regard;

(c) whether his Ministry had invited Ambassadors from 35 countries to get their views on this event;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry propose to bring out some cosmetic changes in the Capital before the beginning of this event; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) A meeting with the International Airlines operating to India was held on January 15, 1999 under the Chairmanship of Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism. In the meeting, the airlines were requested for the promotion and marketing of 'Visit India Year' (now renamed as 'Explore India—Millennium Year') from April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000. This included the screening of in-flight video on tourist attractions of India, use of Explore India logo, training of staff, budget packages etc.

The main objective of the meeting was to generate awareness about the Explore India—Millennium year 1999-2000 and garnering their support in generating more tourists to India.

(c) The Ministry had invited Ambassadors/High Commissioners of 63 countries to share views on celebrating the Explore India—Millennium Year in a meeting held on 12.2.99.

(d) and (e) The Ministry has been in close touch with the concerned Central Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and the Government of National Capital Region of Delhi for improvement in the

infrastructure, facilitation services like passenger facilitation, Custom and Immigration at airports, Railway stations, road transportation and the training to service providers in the capital as part of Explore India—Millennium Year.

[Translation]

Missing Instruments from Delhi Airport

3451. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the accounts of Delhi Airport has not been audited since many years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the valuable assets of Communication Department of the Delhi Airport are missing from the Government treasury;

(d) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The accounts of the Airports Authority of India, (AAI) a Public Sector Undertaking as a whole, are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) who has already audited the accounts of Airports Authority of India upto the year 1997-98.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Improvement of Infrastructure

3452. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide Rs. One crore to some selected cities for improving infrastructure in order to promote tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of cities, State-wise; and