

THIRTIETH REPORT

**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**

(1985-86)

**(EIGHTH LOK SABHA)**

TOURISM PROMOTION IN HIMACHAL PRADESH MINISTRY  
OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

Action taken by Government on the Recommendations  
Contained in the sixth Report of  
Estimates Committee (Eighth Lok Sabha)



Presented to Lok Sabha on 9 April 1986

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

1(S)

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## ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

(1985-86)

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**STUDY GROUP ON ACTION TAKEN REPORT OF  
ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**

**(1985-86)**

- 1. Shri Chintamani Panigrahi—*Chairman***
- 2. Prof. Madhu Dandavate**
- 3. Shri G.L. Dogra**
- 4. Shrimati Sheila Dikshit**
- 5. Shri D.P. Yadav**
- 6. Shri Manoranjan Bhakta**
- 7. Shri M. R. Janardhanan**
- 8. Shri Hannan Mollah**
- 9. Shri B.B. Ramaiah**

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Estimates Committee having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf present this Thirtieth Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixth Report of the Estimates Committee (Eighth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Department of Tourism)—Tourism Promotion in Himachal Pradesh.

2. The Sixth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 24th July, 1985. The draft Report was adopted by the Committee on 9th April, 1986.

3. The Report has been divided into following Chapters :

- (i) Report.
- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by Government.
- (iii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies.
- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee.
- (v) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited.

4. An analysis of action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Sixth Report of Estimates Committee (Eighth Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix. It would be observed that out of 24 recommendations made in the Report 17 recommendations i.e. about 70.84 per cent have been accepted by Government. Replies have not been accepted in respect of 3 recommendations i.e. about 12.50 per cent. The Committee do not desire to pursue 4 recommendations i.e. about 16.66 per cent in view of Government's replies

NEW DELHI ;

CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI,  
*Chairman,*  
*Estimates Committee,*

*April 9, 1986*

*Chaitra 19, 1908 (S)*

## CHAPTER I

### REPORT

1.1. This Report of the Estimates Committee deals with action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Sixth Report (8th Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Department of Tourism)—Tourism Promotion in Himachal Pradesh, which was presented to Lok Sabha on July 24, 1985.

1.2. Action Taken notes have been received in respect of all the 24 recommendations contained in the Sixth Report and categorised as follows :—

- (i) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government

Sl. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24.

(Total 17 —Chapter II)

- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies :—

Sl. Nos. 6, 20, 21, 22.

(Total 4 —Chapter III)

- (iii) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee :—

Sl. Nos. 7, 8, 11.

(Total 3 —Chapter IV)

- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited :—

Sl. Nos. NIL

(Total Nil —Chapter V)

1.3 The Committee will now deal with the action taken by Government on some of their recommendations,

*Funds for Development of Tourism in Himachal Pradesh***Recommendation (Sl. No. 2, Para No. 2.13)**

1.4 The Committee had found that despite the fact that there was considerable tourism potential in Himachal Pradesh, the expenditure in the Central Sector on provision of infrastructure in the State had been rather niggardly. Out of the total expenditure of Rs. 100.35 crores on Tourism Promotion in the Central Sector including investment by the Indian Tourist Development Corporation from Second Five Year Plan onwards upto 1983-84, the share of Himachal Pradesh had been no more than Rs. 87.17 lakhs which was less than one per cent of the total expenditure. It was also noted that during the first four years of the 6th Plan (1980-81—1983-84) the expenditure had been only Rs. 20.56 lakhs which was much less than the expenditure (Rs. 31.94 lakhs) during the corresponding period of the 5th Five Year Plan (1974-78). These facts indicated that the Central Government had not been paying adequate attention to the development of tourist facilities in Himachal Pradesh to attract tourist traffic in that part of the country which had a very rich tourist potential. The Committee had recommended that at least during the 7th Five Year Plan period Himachal Pradesh should be given better attention in the matter of development of tourism oriented infrastructure and facilities.

1.5 In their reply to the Committee the Ministry have stated as follows :—

“The Central Department of Tourism does not allocate funds on state-wise basis. The Department has certain broad schemes for development of infrastructure. The outlines of the schemes are circulated to the State Governments who prepare specific projects on the basis of these outlines. The projects are taken up in consultation with State Government's based on the number of tourists visiting a tourist centre, the future potential of the area for attracting tourists and the existing level of infrastructure. The observation of the Estimates Committee has been noted that during the 7th Five Year Plan Himachal Pradesh should be given more attention. With this end in view, the Department has already requested the Government of Himachal Pradesh to forward suitable schemes which could be taken up within the parameters of our Plan. The Government of Himachal Pradesh has forwarded several schemes which are being processed in consultation with Ministry of Finance for release of funds.”

1.6. The Committee note that the Department of Tourism had requested the Government of Himachal Pradesh to forward suitable schemes which could be taken up within the parameters of the 7th Plan. The Committee



also note that the Government of Himachal Pradesh has forwarded several schemes to the Department which are being processed in consultation with the Ministry of Finance for release of funds. Himachal Pradesh abounds in places of scenic beauty, tourist resorts, winter sports, places of pilgrimage and other places of potential tourism. It requires special attention both of the State, Department of Tourism at the Centre, Railways and the Department of Civil Aviation in the creation of infrastructure facilities for attracting international and domestic tourist traffic to that State. The allocation of more funds has not to be *prorata* "on State-wise basis" but on the consideration that the State of Himachal Pradesh has remained an undeveloped State in spite of its having a great tourism potential. In an undeveloped State like Himachal Pradesh developmental programmes of tourism promotion can be undertaken mainly by the Government agencies. The Committee therefore hope that Himachal Pradesh will receive a better deal in the Seventh Five Year Plan so far as development of tourism in the central sector is concerned.

### *Railway Facilities*

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 7, Para No. 3.11)**

1.7 The Committee had been informed that two new broadgauge railway lines one from Nangal Dam to Talwara and then on to Mukerian and the other from Kalka to Tipra (Parwanoo) had been approved by the Ministry of Railways. Although the former was approved in 1981-82, the progress of the work on the line was reported to be only 4.3% in 1985 while the latter project was still at the nebulous stage of resurvey for preparation of project report. The progress of implementation of these railway projects was thus very tardy and needed to be accelerated. As the proximity of a place of tourist interest to rail head helped in regular inflow of tourist traffic, both domestic and international, the Committee had recommended that keeping this view in mind the projected new railway line should be implemented without avoidable delay.

1.8 The Ministry in their action taken reply have stated :

#### *Nangal-Talwara railway line*

Construction of new B.G. line from Nangal Dam to Talwara (84 kms.) and taking over of siding from Talwara to Mukerian (29 kms.) was approved in 1981-82 at an anticipated cost of Rs. 33.49 crores. The estimate has been updated now for only 1st phase from Nangal Dam to Amb Andaura (44.5 kms.) and is Rs. 37.68 crores,

The expenditure on this project upto March, 1985 was Rs. 410.65 lakhs. The outlay for 1985-86 is Rs. 50 lakhs. The work has been taken up and completed between Nangal Dam and Rai Mehatpur to provide rail head in Himachal Pradesh, as per State Government's demand.

The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has so far given land only upto 2.8 kms. beyond Rai-Mehatpur. The progress of the line beyond Rai-Mehatpur upto Una-Amb Andaura will depend on availability of resources in the coming years.

#### *A new B.G. line from Kalka-Parwanoo*

Construction of a new B.G. line from Kalka to Tipra (Near Parwanoo) (4.3 kms.) at an anticipated cost of Rs. 1.6 crores was approved in April, 1982. The construction of the line upto Parwanoo proper could not be approved as very little area is available in hilly terrain for location of a terminal station and yard, besides, the extremely difficult terrain from Tipra to Parwanoo. As a result of further investigations it was found that the cost of the extension by 2.2 kms. will be about Rs. 4.5 crores.

The Government of Himachal Pradesh, however, desired that the proposal for having the Kalka-Parwanoo BG line be dropped and no further action be taken in respect of this railway line.

In view of the above and the severe constraints of resources, this work has been dropped.

1.9 An efficient and assured transport system is the prime essentiality of developing tourism in any area of tourist interest and out of various systems, the Railways provide the cheapest and assured mode of transport to the tourists coming from long distances. Hence, the role of the Railways (Ministry of Surface Transport) is most important in the development of tourism infrastructure. The Committee, however, find that the Railways did not play their role so well as they ought to have done in the context of tourism potential of Himachal Pradesh.

1.10 The construction of the only Broad Gauge Railway line from Nangal Dam to Talwara (84 kms.) and taking over of siding from Talwara to Mukerian (29 kms.) approved in 1981-82 at an anticipated cost of Rs. 33.49 crores could not be completed. Now the updated estimates for the first phase only (Nangal Dam to Amb Andaura (44.5 kms.) total upto Rs. 37.68 crores as against Rs. 33.49 crores for the entire project of 113 kms. The expenditure incurred on this project upto March, 1985 was Rs. 4.1 crores on 7 kms. track from Nangal Dam to Rai Mehatpur.

1.11 The Committee feel that the real impact on the promotion of tourism and economic development would be fully realised only on the completion of this line and its joining the Jalandhar/Pathankot Broad Gauge Railway line at Mukerian.

1.12 A significant impact of this part executed project with an expenditure of Rs. 41 crores could be made on tourism and economy of Himachal Pradesh and also on railway earnings, if the line is constructed upto AMB where the foundation stone for this Railway line was laid on 22.12.1974 by the then Railway Minister. Amb is a town from where Pilgrims/Tourists can conveniently reach the sacred temples of Chintpurni (Una District), Jwalamukhi (Kangra District), Rivalsar (Mandi District) and Deotsiddha (Hamirpur District) and other historic and places of scenic beauty as Palampur (Kangra District) Nadnaun and Sujanpur Tihra (Hamirpur District) as this link would provide the tourists with direct railway travel facility from any part of the country especially the Metropolitan cities. Amb is the focal point of the rail project and for which the estimates for construction have already been sanctioned. This is the only B.G. line under construction in Himachal Pradesh since Independence as highlighted by the Public Accounts Committee in their 171st and 191st Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) and by the Railway Convention Committee (1980) in their 12th Report on the Track Expansion Programme. The other B.G. line Kalka-Parwanoo sanctioned for Himachal Pradesh has already been dropped.

1.13. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that the Railways should pay special attention to this comparatively small but significant project. The Committee feel that it should not be difficult for the Railways to complete this part-executed project, at least upto Amb within a period of two years.

#### Recommendation (Sl. No. 8, Para No. 3.12)

1.14 In their original report the Committee had commended the proposal already mooted by Himachal Pradesh Hotel and Restaurant Association for starting of direct train linking Bombay/Calcutta with Kalka as being in the interest of tourism promotion and had hoped that the Ministry of Railways would consider the proposal favourably for implementation in the near future.

1.15. In their reply the Ministry have stated :--

“Kalka is directly connected with Howrah via Delhi by 1/2 Kalka-Howrah Mail. The other two trains which also connect Kalka with New Delhi are 195/196 Himalayan Queen (6 days a week) and 183/184 Hatia-Kalka Express (5 days a week). Kalka is further connected with Simla with suitable rail services.

The passengers desirous of travelling to Bombay/Howrah can conveniently avail of the train services from Delhi/New Delhi with a change over at New Delhi/Delhi from where Rajdhani Express and other trains are also available.

The present resources position does not permit for introduction of a direct train from Kalka to Bombay at the moment."

1.16 The report of the Study Team sponsored, as far back as 1973, jointly by the Industrial Development Bank of India and two other banks, had stated that the main hurdles in the development of tourism in Himachal Pradesh were lack of quicker transport and hotel accommodation. So far as the transport aspect of the matter is concerned there has been continuous demand that Kalka should have direct rail connection with the metropolitan cities of Bombay and Calcutta. There are direct trains from Calcutta to Kalka but none from Bombay. The Committee, while noting that the "present resources position does not permit for introduction of direct train" from Kalka to Bombay and back at the moment recommend that, at least, direct coach service in some of the prestigious trains running between Bombay and New Delhi/Delhi should be provided for Kalka by connecting them to fast running trains between New Delhi/Delhi and Kalka.

#### *Government Control over Hotels*

##### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 9, Para No. 4.10)**

1.17 In their original report the Committee had felt that there was need for a Central legislation regulating the hotel industry in the country, as fleecing of tourists, both domestic and foreign, by hotels without making available even standard facilities created a bad image of the country abroad and act as a damper to the enthusiasm of the potential tourists to undertake the journey again. Government should not have been powerless in disciplining the hotel and other allied industries catering to the tourists to conform to certain standards. The Committee had recommended that the Department of Tourism should seriously consider the urgent need for a suitable legislation on that subject being brought before Parliament at the earliest.

1.18 In their Action Taken Reply to the Committee the Ministry have stated :

"Quality control and maintenance of standards in the hotels is primarily the responsibility of the concerned hotels. In the national interests and in the interests of tourism promotion in

the country, however, it is necessary to have an external agency to exercise adequate control over the hotels so as to ensure that the desired standards are maintained. The Department of Tourism has been trying to exercise this control so far through a set of regulatory conditions applicable to the hotels in the approved category. It is true that in the absence of legislative support these regulatory conditions have not proved effective enough in disciplining the hotels and other allied industries who are catering to the tourists. Further these regulatory conditions have no relevance as regards the hotels in the unapproved category which incidentally far out number the hotels in the approved category. In these circumstances, it will be worthwhile to consider having a comprehensive legislation to regulate through central and State agencies the functioning of hotels and other allied industries and in pursuance of the recommendation made by the Estimates Committee in this regard the Department of Tourism is examining the proposal to introduce a suitable legislation in this regard."

1.19. The Committee had recommended that there was need for a central legislation regulating the hotel industry in the country. The Committee note that the Department of Tourism is examining the proposal for introduction of a suitable legislative proposal in this regard. The Committee hope that the matter would be examined quickly and suitable legislative proposals brought before Parliament at the earliest.

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 11, Para No. 4.12)**

1.20 The Committee had emphasised the need for introduction of a system periodical as well surprise inspection of hotels already given a classification by the Department of Tourism to ensure that the facilities in the context of which the hotel was given a particular classification continue to be available in the hotel all the time. In this context the Committee had expressed surprise that even though inspection procedure of some sort did exist, there had been no occasion to declassify any hotel since 1980 for violating the prescribed standard of facilities. The Committee desired that the Department would enjoin upon the inspection authorities to make the inspections thorough and meaningful in one spell and not to hesitate in declassifying a hotel on the spot if the requisite facilities were found to have deteriorated and being below the prescribed standard.

1.21 In their action taken reply, the Ministry have stated :—

"In the system of classification and approval there is already a provision for re-classification of hotels. This could not be done

in the past due to various constraints. It has now been decided to inspect all classified hotels and approved restaurants at regular intervals and take necessary action if the standard of services and facilities are found deficient. However, in view of a steady increase in the number of classified hotels and approved restaurants there is need to augment the Hotel and Restaurant Approval and Classification Cell in the Deptt. of Tourism to effectively control all such hotels and restaurants. As regards disclassification of hotels where standards are found to have deteriorated doing so right at the time of inspection may perhaps be a little to harsh. It will be fair to give the hotels so found wanting a reasonable opportunity and if the hotels fail to bring about the desired improvements within the stipulated period, they should be down graded or declassified."

**1.22** The Committee are not convinced by the explanation given by the Ministry that de-classification of hotel in the context of deterioration of facilities on which it has been given a classification could not be done in the past even in a single case due to various constraints. It is clear from the explanation that inspection machinery of the Department has failed to carry out the task assigned to it. The Committee will like the Department to go deep into it and ensure that no vested interests have been created between the inspecting officers and the hotel owners.

**1.23** The Committee also do not agree with the argument of the Department that de-classification of hotels where standards are found to have deteriorated right at the time of inspection may perhaps be "a little to harsh." The Committee feel that unless exemplary punishment is given in cases where facts are beyond any dispute, it will not be possible to maintain any discipline in the hotel industry. The Committee will look forward for positive information from the Government, about action taken on the lines of their recommendation within next six months.

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 17, Para No. 4.28)**

**1.24** The Committee had found that the project of Constructing Yatrika at Naina Devi had been hanging fire for quite some time. From the reply of the Minister of State for Tourism and Civil Aviation in Lok Sabha, it appeared that the project had not yet reached the take off stage. It was surprising that with the resources of the Central/State Departments of Tourism and Bharatiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti it had not been possible to arrange a suitable contractor to get that comparatively smaller project through. The Committee had desired to have that project completed at the earliest.

1.25 In their reply the Ministry have stated :

“The Bharatiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti (BYAVS) had a proposal to take up the construction of Yatrika at Naina Devi. A site was allocated by the State Government for this purpose. However, due to land slides this site was rendered unsuitable for construction purposes. BYAVS, took up the matter with the State Government for allocation of an alternative site. A meeting for the purpose was also held by the Hon. Secretary, BYAVS on 17 and 18 September, 1985, with the Commissioner of Tourism, Himachal Pradesh, revenue officials and the other concerned officers of the State Government. Eventually three suitable sites were identified. The State Government had assured that they will take further steps for the allocation and transfer of land to BYAVS for the purpose of construction of a Yatrika at one of these sites. The matter is being pursued and it is hoped that with the cooperation of the State Government suitable land will be allocated to enable BYAVS to take up the construction work as soon as possible.”

1.26 The Committee note that the project of construction Yatrika at Naina Devi has been getting delayed for one reason or the other for the last several years. This Project was proposed by the Bharatiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti at an estimated cost of Rs. 9.25 lakhs. As stated by the Department, the matter was being pursued with the State Government for allocating a suitable land to the Bharatiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti for taking up the construction work as soon as possible. The Committee consider that it is necessary to pursue the matter vigorously with the State Government at the highest level so that a suitable site is allocated for the purpose at the earliest. Any delay in the matter is bound to lead to cost escalation of the project.

**Recommendation (Sl. No. 23, Para No. 7.6)**

1.27 The Committee had regreted that the Department of Tourism had not yet produced any booklet of its own containing a comprehensive write-up on places of tourists interests all over the country and also giving information and advice of interest to tourists in the country, both domestic and foreign. The Committee had hoped that the detailed booklet on travel information for the guidance of tourists proposed to be brought out by the Department would come out soon.

1.28 In their Action Taken Reply the Ministry have stated :—

“Department has recently undertaken to have a Travel-Manual printed for the use of the Travel Trade and for all our offices

both in India and abroad. This Trade-Manual will contain information on well-known tourist centres. There will be general information on conferences and conventions/hotels, frontier formalities, air schedules, weather charts, rail travel etc.

The Department of Tourism also has comprehensive publicity material in the form of tourist folders/brochures/directories/map etc. covering all important tourist centres in India. We also have folders/brochures and our endeavour is to ensure that all States are covered adequately in our tourist publicity material. This literature is distributed free of cost to both foreign and domestic tourists. We also print the tourist information booklet and the Tourist Railway Time Table which are very informative and extremely useful brochures. The Department of Tourism widely distributes the brochure "This is India" which encompasses the entire country. The production of a more detailed guide book on India will be taken in hand in view of our increased publicity Budget for the 7th Plan period. It is hoped that we will then be able to fill the gap which had earlier existed due to the absence of a comprehensive guide book on India."

1.29 The Committee note that the Department of Tourism will take in hand the production of a detailed guide book on India for the guidance of tourists. The Committee hope that this compilation on travel information would be brought out latest by the end of 1986 with the increased allocation of funds now available with the Department for publicity.

#### *Implementation of Recommendations*

1.30 The Committee would like to emphasise that they attach the greatest importance to the implementation of the recommendations accepted by Government. They would, therefore, urge that Government should keep a close watch so as to ensure expeditious implementation of the recommendations accepted by them. In case where it is not possible to implement the recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee in time with reasons for non-implementation.



## CHAPTER II

### RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

#### Recommendation (Sl. No. 1, para 2.7)

It is indeed surprising that the Department of Tourism has as yet no complete data in regard to tourist traffic to various States in the country, nor does it have any systematic method of collecting the same either of its own or through the State Governments. The Committee fail to understand as to how in the absence of systematised data collection the Department has assessed the tourist traffic in the '90s or, for that matter, presented its case for allocation of funds for development of tourism in the Central Sector to the Planning Commission. Secretary, Department of Tourism admitted before the Committee during evidence that not all States in the country have Statistical Cells to collect data of tourist flow in the States and that the Statistical Cell of the Central Department of Tourism itself is 'very weak'. The Committee would like the Department of Tourism to urgently evolve a suitable and effective machinery for the collection of information of tourist traffic in the country both international and domestic and the traffic attracted by each State so that developmental activities could be planned realistically and not on ad hoc basis as appears to be the case at present.

#### Reply of Government

Reliable statistics on total international tourist traffic to India are being collected by the Department of Tourism on a regular basis from the disembarkation cards filled in by the foreign tourists at their points of entry into the country. These statistics are being used for the projection of tourist traffic in successive plan periods

Statistics of foreign tourist arrivals in different States/U.Ts are not available on a regular basis. The estimated percentages of foreign tourists spending at least a night in different States/U.Ts are, however, available in the report of the Foreign Tourist Survey 1982-83 undertaken by the Indian Statistical Institute. These estimates are given at Annexure 'A'.

Reliable data on domestic tourism are not available on a uniform basis from most of the States/U.Ts. This lacuna in the tourism statistics has

already been realised and a number of steps have been initiated for bridging the gap. A Working Group on Domestic Tourism Statistics was set up in 1977 to evolve a working definition of the domestic tourist as well as the methodologies for the collection of the statistics on a regular basis. A report containing the definition and different methodologies for the compilation and reporting of the domestic tourism statistics was submitted by the Working Group in 1979. The Group also suggested that the responsibility for the collection of the data on domestic tourism should rest with the State Departments of Tourism and for this purpose statistical cells with a minimum staff of 3 to 6 persons should be created in their respective departments. The recommendations were forwarded to all the State/U.T. Govts. for necessary action. It was also recommended in the Tourism Ministers' Conference held during 1981, 1984 and 1985.

The State/U.T. Governments have generally accepted the recommendations and 15 of them have already created nucleus statistical cells for the collection of domestic tourism statistics from accommodation establishments. A few States have initiated action for the creation of these cells.

The compilation of statistics as per the recommendations of the Working Group has, however, not been taken up by most of the State Governments primarily due to lack of direction and resources, absence of a co-ordinated scheme and enough field staff.

A Central Scheme has now been proposed for strengthening of the statistical cell in the Department of Tourism for providing the most needed direction and coordination to the State Governments. The scheme envisages collection of tourist arrivals data from accommodation establishments on a regular basis from all the tourist centres and cities in the country through the State Governments. This will also provide statistics of foreign tourists visiting different parts of the country on a regular basis. Augmentation of field staff in the State Department of tourism may also be required when the scheme starts progressing in various States. However, the immediate necessity is to strengthen the statistical cell of the Department of Tourism and a proposal for the same is already under consideration of the Finance.

[Deptt. of Tourism O.M. No. 16(17)/85-Admn. III  
dated 13-1-1986]

**Recommendation (Sl. No. 2, para 2.13)**

The Committee find that despite the fact that there is considerable tourism potential in Himachal Pradesh, the expenditure in the Central

Sector on provision of infrastructure in the State has been rather niggardly. Out of the total expenditure of Rs. 100.35 crores on Tourism Promotion in the Central Sector including investment by the Indian Tourist Development Corporation from Second Five Year Plan onwards upto 1983-84, the share of Himachal Pradesh has been no more than Rs. 87.17 lakhs which is less than one per cent of the total expenditure. It is also noted that during the first four years of the 6th Plan(1980-81—1983-84) the expenditure has been only Rs. 20.56 lakhs which is much less than the expenditure (Rs. 31.9; lakhs) during the corresponding period of the 5th Five Year Plan (1974-78). These facts indicate that the Central Govt. has not been paying adequate attention to the development of tourist facilities in Himachal Pradesh to attract tourist traffic in that part of the country which has a very rich tourist potential. The Committee recommend that at least during the 7th Five Year Plan period Himachal Pradesh should be given better attention in the matter of development of tourism oriented infrastructure and facilities.

#### **Reply of Government**

The Central Department of Tourism does not allocate funds on state-wise basis. The Department has certain broad schemes for development of infrastructure. The outlines of these schemes are circulated to the State Governments who prepare specific projects on the basis of these outlines. The projects are taken up in consultation with State Govts. based on the number of tourists visiting a tourist centre, the future potential of the area for attracting tourists and the existing level of infrastructure. The observation of the Estimates Committee has been noted that during the 7th Five Year Plan Himachal Pradesh should be given more attention. With this end in view, the Department has already requested the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh to forward suitable schemes which could be taken up within the parameters of our Plan. The Govt. of Himachal Pradesh has forwarded several schemes which are being processed in consultation with Ministry of Finance for release of funds.

[Deptt. of Tourism O.M. No. 16(17)/85-Admn. III  
dated 13-1-1986]

(For comments, please see Chapter I)

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 3, para 2,14)**

The Committee feel sure that moneys invested for development of tourist facilities in a State like Himachal Pradesh, which abounds in places of rapturous natural scenic beauty, would not only pay off in the long run but also contribute to the general development and prosperity of the State and also of the country as a whole,

### Reply of Government

The observation made by the Estimates Committee has been noted. As mentioned in reply to para 2.13 the State Government had been requested to forward suitable schemes for implementation in H.P. during the 7th Five Year Plan. The schemes forwarded by the State Govt. so far are being processed. As and when more schemes are received these will also be examined favourably and processed for release of funds.

[Deptt. of Tourism O.M. No. 16(17)/85-Admn. III  
dated 13.1.1986].

### Recommendation (Sl. No. 4, Para 2.18)

The committee find that of the 9 schemes for creation of facilities for tourism submitted to the Central Department of Tourism by the Government of Himachal Pradesh in October, 1981, not a single scheme appealed to the Department of Tourism and the Government of H.P. was asked to send revised schemes without indicating to the State Govt. as to what amount could be made available to the State Govt. for this purpose. This surely would have affected adversely on the enthusiasm of the State Govt. to prepare schemes. In this context it is no wonder that no expenditure could be incurred in the Central Sector on development of tourist facilities in Himachal Pradesh during 1982-83 and 83-84. It will be helpful if the Deptt. of Tourism indicates in advance to the State/U.T. Govts. as to what amount is likely to be available in the Central Sector for development of tourist facilities in the State/U.T. during a specified period and then ask for schemes to fit in the ceiling indicated. The procedure currently in force is quite frustrating for the State Govts. and is likely to discourage them in preparing schemes for development of tourist facilities for assistance by the Centre. The Committee hope that the Department of Tourism would review their procedure in order to avoid infructuous effort in preparation of schemes by the State Govts. for assistance which may not be forthcoming to the extent desired.

### Reply of Government

The allocation of funds for development of tourism infrastructure is not made on Statewise or region wise basis. Allocation is made in relation to various schemes which are undertaken by Department of Tourism in the Central Sector for provision of infrastructure. The outlines of these schemes, likely amount of funds that could be made available for each component were forwarded to the State Govts. requesting them to send suitable projects keeping in view these outlines. The State Govts. could within these limits

prepare suitable schemes and forward to the Department. In fact we are in constant dialogue with the State Govts. to ensure that appropriate schemes are forwarded which could be processed. It is unfortunate that the proposals forwarded by the Govt. of H.P. in October, 1981 remained without a response one way or the other. It is now ensured that wherever the proposals from the State Govts. required modifications or further information it is immediately obtained and that if the proposal cannot be implemented the State Govts. are informed accordingly.

In as much as the tourism infrastructure has to be provided keeping in view the potential of a centre for attracting tourists, number of tourists already visiting the place, the infrastructure that exists there and minimum requirement to meet the present and immediate future needs, it would not be possible to allocate funds on Statewise or regionwise basis. However, in order that a situation does not arise where a proposal received from the State Govt. remained unanswered or unattended for such a period as in the case of Govt. of H.P., measures have been taken to ensure that all communications received from the State Govt. are attended to and responded urgently and in cases where information is required, it is obtained and the proposals processed. Where it is not possible due to some reasons, to implement the project the State Govt. is advised accordingly with the request to forward a modified scheme which could fit in the overall plans of the Department of Tourism.

[Deptt. of Tourism OM No. 16 (17) 85 Admn. III dated 13-1-1986]

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 5, Para 3.5)**

In view of considerable tourism potential of Himachal Pradesh, particularly international tourism, construction of aerodrome near Simla to take on bigger aircraft such as Boing 737 seems fully justified. Air service from Delhi/Chandigarh to Simla would certainly give a fillip to tourism in that State. Since construction of aerodromes is the responsibility of the Centre, the Committee are not aware under what circumstances the work of construction of the airport at Simla was initially undertaken by the State Government. Had this task been undertaken by the Department of Civil Aviation, the present position would have been different altogether. The Committee would like the Department of Civil Aviation not only to prepare various project reports expeditiously but also to find simultaneously money for construction of aerodrome near Simla. They trust that the project would be cleared at all levels promptly and implemented in the early part of the 7th Five Year Plan period.

### Reply of Government

The project has been cleared by the Expenditure Finance Committee and expenditure sanction for the construction of aerodrome near Simla is under issue by the Department of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Transport. The project has been included in the 7th Five Year Plan with a provision of Rs. 412.00 lakhs for civil works specifically for Simla Airport and a further provision of Rs. 923 lakhs for equipment for Vayudoot Airports including Simla. The Airport when ready would cater for Aircraft operations with short take off and landing (STOL) type aircraft i.e. DORNIER Aircraft operated by Vayudoot.

[Deptt. of Tourism OM. No. 16 (17) 85. Admn. III dated 13-1-1986].

### Recommendation (Sl. No. 9, Para 4.10)

The Committee feel that there is need for a Central Legislation regulating the hotel industry in the country. Fleecing of tourists, both domestic and foreign, by hotels without making available even standard facilities creates a bad image of the country abroad and acts as a damper to the enthusiasm of the potential tourists to undertake the journey again. Govt. should not be powerless in disciplining the hotel and other allied industries who are catering to the tourists to conform to certain standards. The Committee recommend that the Deptt. of Tourism should seriously consider the urgent need for a suitable legislation on this subject being brought before Parliament at the earliest.

### Reply of Government

Quality control and maintenance of standards in the hotels is primarily the responsibility of the concerned hotels. In the national interests and in the interests of tourism promotion in the country, however, it is necessary to have an external agency to exercise adequate control over the hotels so as to ensure that the desired standards are maintained. The Deptt. of Tourism has been trying to exercise this control so far through a set of regulatory conditions applicable to the hotels in the approved category. It is true that in the absence of legislative support these regulatory conditions have not proved effective enough in disciplining the hotels and other allied industries who are catering to the tourists. Further these regulatory conditions have no relevance as regards the hotels in the unapproved category which incidentally for out number the hotels in the approved category. In these circumstances, it will be worthwhile to consider having a comprehensive legislation to regulate through Central and State agencies the functioning of hotels and other allied industries and in pursuance of the

recommendation made by the Estimates Committee in this regard the Deptt. of Tourism is examining the proposal to introduce a suitable legislation in this regard.

[Deptt. of Tourism O.M. No. 16 (17)/85. Adm. III dated 13-1-1986].

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 10, Para 4.11)**

It was admitted during evidence before the Committee that there is a heavy backlog of applications from hotels for classification and that efforts have commenced only recently for clearing this backlog. The Committee would like the Deptt. of Tourism to streamline and simplify the procedures to ensure expeditious clearance of all applications for classification of hotels. A period of two months from the date of application should be more than adequate for the Deptt. of Tourism to inspect the hotel concerned and classify it according to the facilities available.

#### **Reply of Government**

The post of Chairman, Hotel and Restaurant Approval and Classification Committee was not a full-time job in the past and one Officer-in-charge of the Hotel and Restaurant Division used to look after this work in addition to his/her normal duties. This dispensation did not permit devoting whole time and undivided attention to the work pertaining to classification of hotels and approval of restaurants. The unattended applications, therefore, kept on accumulating resulting in a heavy backlog. However, since April, 1984 a Senior IAS officer of the rank of Joint Secretary in the Govt. of India has been appointed as Chairman of the Committee full time. The backlog of applications has been cleared since then. Also, the responsibility of classification of 1 and 2 star hotels has now been delegated to States who have constituted State-level committees with Central Government's representation.

For inspecting the hotels/restaurants concerned for purposes of classification/approval a period 2 to 3 months from the date of application seems quite reasonable provided the applications are complete in all respects and the hotels/restaurants are ready for inspection.

[Deptt. of Tourism O.M. No. 16(17)/85-Admn, III dt. 13-1-1986].

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 12, Para 4.13)**

The Committee desire that a survey should be undertaken in collabo-

ration with the State Government to assess the potential and scope for development of existing hotels and establishment of new chain of hotels in Himachal Pradesh to promote domestic tourism and attract larger inflow of foreign tourists. In the light of the conclusion of the survey, a suitable scheme should be drawn up for implementation in the private as well as the public sector both central and the State.

### **Reply of Government**

The implementation of the domestic tourism statistics scheme proposed to be undertaken during this financial year itself will largely provide the basic information for assessing the potential for the development of hotels and other infrastructural facilities in various places in the State of Himachal Pradesh. In this context, the State Govt. of Himachal Pradesh has already created a post of Asstt. Commissioner and four posts of Inspectors for the collection of required statistics. A letter has accordingly been written to the Secretary (Tourism) of Himachal Pradesh to prepare a comprehensive plan identifying the areas on which the Central assistance is required for the implementation of the scheme. Further action on the subject will be taken up on receipt of the Scheme from the State Government.

[Deptt. of Tourism O.M. No. 16(17)/85-Admn. III dt. 13-1-1986].

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 13, Para 4.18)**

The Committee trust that the proposal for additional rooms to be added to the travellers' lodge at Manali has by now been approved by the Board of Directors of the ITDC and that the scheme would be taken in hand without any further delay.

### **Reply of Government**

With a view to providing additional facilities at Manali, a proposal was formulated to expand the 10 roomed Travellers Lodge at Manali by adding 15 more rooms so as to convert the lodge into a 3-star hotel at an estimated cost of Rs. 38 lakhs.

The proposal was considered by the ITDC Board at their meeting held on 29.12.1983. The Board felt that Manali might not be a future destination area and as such, the Board desired that the proposal may be re-examined in order to conceive a proper mix of rooms keeping the market's projections in view.

Subsequently, in view of the disturbed conditions in the neighbouring states, the proposal was deferred.



A scheme to expand the travellers lodge at Manali has been included in the Seventh Plan (1985-90) of ITDC. As and when the position in the neighbouring states improve, the proposal would be reviewed for implementation subject to a satisfactory feasibility study.

[Deptt. of Tourism O.M. No. 16(17)/85-Admn. III dt. 13-1-1986].

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 14, Para 4.19)**

The tariff per room (for accommodation only) at travellers' lodges in Kulu and Manali appears to the Committee to be on the higher side. This may be the main or one of the predominant reasons for low rate of average occupancy of these lodges. The Committee recommend that a reduction in the tariff may be tried as experimental measure for a limited period to watch its effect on rate of occupancy and final decision in the matter may be taken after analysing the results of the trial.

#### **Reply of Government**

The travellers' lodge in Kulu and Manali are not run by the Deptt. of Tourism nor does Deptt. of Tourism control their tariff as they are in the unapproved sector. However, the recommendation of the Estimates Committee is being forwarded to ITDC and the Himachal Pradesh Government for doing the needful. It may, however, be observed that in the last few years tourist traffic to Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh has been adversely affected due to disturbances in the neighbouring State of Punjab.

[Deptt. of Tourism O.M. No. 16(17)/85-Admn. III dt. 13-1-1986].

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 15, Para 4.21)**

Luxury tax in hotels imposed by certain States is definitely a drag on the development of tourism. The Committee would like the Department to continue their efforts in getting this tax abolished as the amount realised from this tax is stated to be very small.

#### **Reply of Government**

The State Governments which imposed luxury tax in hotels have been requested from time to time to abolish this tax and further necessary action is in progress.

[Deptt. of Tourism O.M. No. 16(17)/85-Admn. III dt. 13-1-1986].

**Recommendation (Sl. No. 16, Para 4.27)**

The Committee find that Bharatiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti constituted in November 1978 to supplement the efforts of the State Governments to provide accommodation to low income group tourists at cheaper rate, has made little progress. They would like the Department of Tourism to activate the Samiti and keep a closer watch on its activities. Merely releasing grant-in-aid to the Samiti is not enough. It is the responsibility of the Department to see that the Samiti shows concrete results. Before releasing any further grants an assessment of the results achieved by the Samiti *vis a vis* the amount released earlier should be made if necessary by getting an on the spot inspection made.

**Reply of Government**

Block accounts of the permanent assets acquired wholly or mainly out of the grants by the Department of Tourism to Bharatiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti have been maintained. The Internal Check Unit of the Ministry of Tourism & Civil Aviation have conducted the checks of the accounts of the BYAVS.

BYAVS has also been instructed to make available all records to Director of Audit, Commerce, Works and Misc., New Delhi for his inspection.

[Deptt. of Tourism O.M. No. 16(17)/85-Admn. III dt. 31-1-1986].

**Recommendation (Sl. No. 17, Para 4.28)**

The Committee find that the project of Constructing Yatrika at Naina Devi has been hanging fire for quite some time. From the reply of the Minister of State for Tourism and Civil Aviation in Lok Sabha, it appears that the project has not yet reached the take off stage. It is surprising that with the resources of the Central/State Departments of Tourism and Bharatiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti it has not been possible to arrange a suitable contractor to get this comparatively small project through. The Committee would like the Department to have this project completed at the earliest.

**Reply of Government**

The Bharatiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti (BYAVS) had a proposal to take up the construction of Yatrika at Naina Devi. A site was allocated by the State Government for this purpose. However, due to land slides this site was rendered unsuitable for construction purposes. BYAVS took up the matter with the State Government for allocation of an alternative site. A

meeting for the purpose was also held by the Hon. Secretary, BYAVS on 17 and 18 September, 1985, with the Commissioner of Tourism, Himachal Pradesh, revenue officials and the other concerned officers of the State Government. Eventually three suitable sites were identified. The State Government had assured that they will take further steps for the allocation and transfer of land to BYAVS for the purpose of construction of a Yatrika at one of these sites. The matter is being pursued and it is hoped that with the cooperation of the State Government suitable land will be allocated to enable BYAVS to take up the construction work as soon as possible.

[Deptt. of Tourism O.M. No. 16(17)/85-Admn. III dt. 13.1.1986].

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 18, Para 4.29)**

The Committee would also like the Department of Tourism to explore the possibility of persuading various Central Public Undertakings as well as the Ministries/Departments of Government of India to set up holiday homes in Himachal Pradesh so as to encourage their employees to choose Himachal Pradesh as their destination while availing of LTC facilities for rest and recreation.

#### **Reply of Government**

Various Central Public Undertakings and Ministries/Departments of the Government of India have been sent a circular requesting them to consider setting up holiday homes in Himachal Pradesh so as to encourage their employees to choose Himachal Pradesh as their holiday destination.

[Deptt. of Tourism O.M. No. 16(17)/85-Admn. III dt. 13.1.1986].

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 19, Para 4.33)**

The Committee agree that according the status of 'industry' to hotels and other tourism related activities and securing for this activity concessions which are normally applicable to the industries, particularly the newly set up industries, would go a long way in development of tourism. The Committees feel that grant of concessions which are available to industry to the hotel industry also should normally lead to lowering of hotel tariffs and charges for other tourist facilities. The Committees would like the Department of Tourism to continue their efforts in persuading the State Governments to treat this activity as an industry.

#### **Reply of Government**

Pursuant to the recommendation of the National Development Council in July 1984, that tourism should be accorded the status of an industry,

the then Secretary (Tourism) wrote to all the State Govts. to declare tourism as an industry and offer facilities and concessions that are made available to other activities which have been formally declared as an industry. Simultaneously the Department of Tourism wrote to the concerned Ministries in the Centre for giving tax and other concessions to the tourism industry which include hotels also.

This matter was also discussed by the meeting of Tourism Secretaries of State Govts. and MD of State Tourism Development Corporations held on 15.7.85. At this meeting a Working Group was set up to finalise specific benefits which could accrue to tourism related activities in case the tourism was accorded the status of an industry. The recommendations of the Working Group were circulated to the State Govts. in August, 1985. These recommendations brought out the concessions/incentives which should be offered by the State Govts. as also those that should be offered by the Central Govt. The State Govts. have been requested to take necessary action to accord these benefits to tourism related activities. The question has also been taken up with the Central Ministries concerned for according the incentives and concessions to the tourism industry as recommended by the Working Group.

[Deptt. of Tourism OM, No. 16 (17)/85 Adm. III dt. 13-1-1986].

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 23, Para 7.6)**

The Committee regret that the Department of Tourism has not yet produced any booklet of its own containing a comprehensive write-up on places of tourists interests all over the country and also giving information and advice of interest to tourists in the country, both domestic and foreign. The Committee hope that the detailed booklet on travel information for the guidance of tourists proposed to be brought out by the Department would come out soon.

#### **Reply of Government**

Department has recently undertaken to have a Travel Manual printed for the use of the Travel Trade and for all our offices both in India and abroad. This Trade Manual will contain information on well known tourist centres. There will be general information on conferences and conventions/hotels, frontier formalities, air schedules, weather charts, rail travel etc.

The Department of Tourism also has comprehensive publicity material in the form of tourist folders/brochures/directories/maps etc. covering all important tourist centres in India. We also have folders/brochures and our

endeavour is to ensure that all States are covered adequately in our tourist publicity material. This literature is distributed free of cost to both foreign and domestic tourists. We also print the tourist information booklet and the Tourist Railway Time Table which are very informative and extremely useful brochures. The Department of Tourism widely distributes the brochure "This is India" which encompasses the entire country. The production of a more detailed guide book on India will be taken in hand in view of our increased publicity Budget for the 7th Plan period. It is hoped that we will then be able to fill the gap which had earlier existed due to the absence of a comprehensive guide book on India.

[Deptt. of Tourism OM No. 16 (17)/85 Adm. III dated 13-1-1986].

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 24, Para 7.22)**

The Committee note that during 1983-84 the expenditure of the Department of Tourism and ITDC on "Overseas Promotion" including payment of TA/DA of officers for undertaking tours abroad was as much as Rs. 4.81 crores. The Committee would like the Department of Tourism to examine as to how much of the expenditure was in the nature of administrative expenses and how much on publicity. In the light of this examination, the Committee would like the Department to reorient the expenditure pattern to give more emphasis to advertising and publicity not only through written word but also by screening of conventional and video documentary films and slides showing the natural beauty of the various tourist spots in the country and the culture and traditions of the people of different regions and areas of the country as also modern facilities available for holding of international conferences, seminars etc.

#### **Reply of Government**

The Department of Tourism has examined the expenditure pattern for Overseas Promotion vis-a-vis Establishment charges and actual expenditure on undertaking publicity and promotion schemes. In order to work out on the actual ratio, it is important that Plan and Non-Plan Budgets are taken up separately. A statement showing the budget allocations under separate "Head," under Non-Plan and Plan, Operation-wise, for the 6th Plan period is at Annexure 'B'.

It may be observed that during the year 1984-85 under the Non-Plan, Plan the budget allocation for Salaries Travelling Allowance, office Expenses, Rent, Rates and Taxes & Publicity & Promotion was as under :

1984-85

(Rs. in lakhs)

Non Plan	(Inclusive of Air-India Share)
1. Salaries	Rs. 119.57
2. T.A.	Rs. 17.31
3. RRT & O.E.	Rs. 152.27
4. Publicity & Promotion	Rs. 147.27
Grand Total	Rs. 436.42

### Plan

#### *Publicity and Promotion Rs. 98.89*

It may be noted that only Rs. 147.27 lakhs was spent on actual publicity and Promotion schemes out of a total of Rs. 436.42 lakhs under Non-Plan. The Plan allocations were initiated during the Sixth Five Year Plan to augment the resources under Non-Plan for taking up Publicity and Promotion vigorously. The Budget allocations under Plan are exclusively utilised for undertaking, publicity and promotion schemes.

In case of Non-Plan approximately 66.36% of the budget allocation is utilised for Establishment and Salaries etc. leaving behind only 33.64% for Publicity and Promotion. Since the Plan allocations are fully utilised for Publicity and Promotion, therefore, taking into account Plan & Non-Plan Budgets together the ratio between Establishment Charges and actual Publicity and Promotion is approximately Rs. 53.92% and 46.08% respectively.

The Department is quite aware of the eroding of funds from the Publicity Budget to fulfil the need under Establishment Charges which cannot be avoided due to the reason that this is based on actual expenditure incurred which is absolutely unavoidable for the existence of the tourist office.

Realizing the position, the whole scheme has been re-oriented and from the 7th Plan Period, the Planning Commission has agreed to allocate Plan funds on a higher scale for Overseas Promotion. During the year 1985-86, a Budget allocation of Rs. 300 lakhs for marketing India abroad has been provided. This has enabled the Overseas Offices to undertake vigorous and

**systematic Publicity and Promotion Programmes. For the year 1985-86, the Advertising overseas will be more consumer-oriented and India will be projected not only as a Cultural Destination but also as a destination for holding conventions, Holidaying and promoting leisure time activities such as enjoying Beach Holidays, Skiing, viewing wild life and the like. Based on the new approach in order to cater to the required needs of the intending foreign and domestic tourists, Documentary Films, New Literature and other promotional material is being brought out both by the Department of Tourism from Headquarters and by Overseas offices.**

**[Deptt. of Tourism OM. No. 16 (17)/Adm III dt. 13-1-1986].**

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES**

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 6, Para 3.7)**

The Committee are not aware whether the package tours launched by Vayudoot between Delhi/Chandigarh-Kulu-Manali were popular or not. In case these were popular, there is a case for their continuance throughout the year instead of the facility being confined to off season only. The Committee would like the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation to examine the commercial viability of such services by Vayudoot throughout the year in the context of tourist promotion effort and if the service is able to pay its way through, it could be continued throughout the year. If necessary a higher tariff could be fixed for the peak season period.

#### **Reply of Government**

At present, Vayudoot is launching its package tours between Delhi-Chandigarh-Kulu in off season only, in view of the cheap facilities and services available during that period. Off season package tours are being launched due to the fact that it would not be economical to operate package tours throughout the year. Therefore, Vayudoot has no plan to operate package tours during the whole year, at present.

[Deptt. of Tourism OM. No. 16 (17)/85 Admn. III dt. 13-1-1986]

#### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 20, Para 5.4)**

The Committee note that Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation arranges conducted tours from Simla to various tourists places in Himachal Pradesh. Vayudoot has also introduced off-season package tours for the convenience of middle class passengers from outside the State. The ITDC contemplates putting up of a hotel in Chandigarh and thereafter it would explore the possibility of arranging conducted tours from Chandigarh to Himachal Pradesh. The Committee feel that it should not be difficult for the Central agencies to arrange conducted tours round the year not only from Chandigarh but from other cities in India to Himachal



Pradesh in consultation with various transport, hotel sports and educational agencies in the country such package/conducted tours will not only help in developing the economy of the State but also help in achieving better understanding among the people belonging to different regions and linguistic groups.

### **Reply of Government**

At present, Vayudoot is launching its package tours between Delhi-Chandigarh-Kulu in off season only, in view of the cheap facilities and services available during that period. Off season package tours are being launched due to the fact that it would not be economical to operate package tours through out the year. Therefore, Vayudoot has no plans to operate package tours during the whole year, at present.

[Deptt. of Tourism OM. No. 16 (17)/85 Admn. III dt. 13-1-1986].

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 21, Para 6.4)**

Himachal Pradesh has vast potential for development of winter sports. Places like Narkanda, Manali, Dalhousie, Dharamsala etc. offer ideal sites for development of facilities for these sports. The Committee note that some progress has been made in this direction at Narkanda. However, a lot more has to be done before H.P. could hold real attraction to potential tourists interested in winter sports. The Committee feel that the State needs substantial help in developing these facilities and hope that Department of Tourism would unreservedly come to the assistance of the State in a larger measure than hitherto.

### **Reply of Government**

As already explained to the Estimates Committee India is a vast country studded with places of tourist interest. In view of this and the meagreness of the resources it is not possible for the Government of India to carry out survey of each and every centre which has potential for its development. It is inevitable that a policy of selectivity is followed in order to have optimal results. It is the policy of the Government of India to assist the State Government in the development of selected areas leaving the remaining centres for the time being to the care of the State Government to develop. In pursuance of this policy Narkanda has been identified for assistance by the Central Government to develop it as a winter sports resorts. Efforts will be made to assist the State Government in the develop-

ment of other centres of tourist interest also depending up on the availability of resources.

[Deptt. of Tourism OM. No. 16 (17)/85 Admn. III dt. 13-1-1986].

### **Recommendation (Sl. No. 22, Para 7.2)**

As imaginative projection and publicity of the natural and rugged beauty of Himachal Pradesh as also of its cultural heritage is necessary to capture the attention of potential tourists in foreign countries, and attractively produced publicity material in foreign languages is a must therefor. The Committee recommend that the Department of Tourism and the Government of Himachal Pradesh should jointly examine the adequacy and quality of the existing publicity material on tourism in the State and pool their resources in improving the quality and coverage of the material by adopting innovative techniques. Free availability of such material through Indian missions, tourist centres and travel agents is sure to give desired fillip to international tourism in Himachal Pradesh.

### **Reply of Government**

The Department of Tourism had discussions with the Commissioner Tourism, Himachal Pradesh on our printing of literature on Himachal Pradesh. A Circular letter was sent to all State Governments with the request that they may supply samples of their publicity literature along with costs so that the Department of Tourism could tabulate this information and ensure that there is no over-lapping.

2. It has always been the endeavour of the Department to produce literature which is attractive and catches the attention of potential tourists in foreign countries. The literature, in order to cater to the needs of tourists who do not know English, is brought out in languages such as French, Spanish, Italian, German, Arabic, Japanese, Korean etc.

3. The literature produced by the Department of Tourism on various places of tourist interest including Himachal Pradesh is made available, free of cost to Indian Missions, various State Tourist Information Offices, Travel Agents and all other agencies promoting India so that the desired fillip is given to attract travellers from abroad.

4. The Department's production programme for the year 1985-86 includes a brochure on "Trekking". This brochure will also carry infor-

mation on trekking in Himachal Pradesh. A series of posters on leisure activities which will also have subjects such as trekking and mountaineering are also being produced. Efforts will be made to include photographs of scenic beauty of Himachal Pradesh.

[Deptt. of Tourism O.M. No. 16 (17)/85 Admn. III  
dated. 13-1-1986].

## CHAPTER IV

### RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

#### Recommendation (Sl. No. 7, para 3.11)

The Committee are informed that two new broadgauge railway lines one from Nagal Dam to Talwara and then on to Mukerian and the other from Kalka to Tipra (Parwanoo) have been approved by the Ministry of Railways. Although the former was approved in 1981-82, the present progress of the work on the line is reported to be only 4.3% while the latter project is still at the nebulous stage of resurvey for preparation of project report. The progress of implementation of these railway projects is thus very tardy and needs to be accelerated. It is needless to mention that proximity of a place of tourist interest to rail head helps in regular inflow of tourists traffic, both domestic and international. The projected new railway lines have to be viewed from this angle also and implemented without avoidable delay.

#### Reply of Government

##### *Nangal Talwara Railway Line*

Construction of new B.G. line from Nangal Dam to Talwara (84 kms) and taking over of siding from Talwara to Mukerian (29 kms) was approved in 1981-82 at an anticipated cost of Rs. 33.49 crores. The estimate has been updated now for only 1st phase from Nangal Dam to Amb Andaura (44.5 kms) and is Rs. 37.68 crores.

The expenditure on this project, upto March, 1985 was Rs. 410.65 lakhs. The outlay for 1985-86 is Rs. 50 lakhs. The work has been taken up and completed between Nangal Dam and Rai Mehatpur to provide a rail head in Himachal Pradesh, as per State Government's demand.

The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has so far given land only upto 2.8 kms. beyond Rai-Mehatpur. The progress of the line beyond Rai-Mehatpur upto Una-Amb Andaura will depend on availability of resources in the coming years.

*A New B.G. line from Kalka-Parwanoo :*

Construction of a new BG line from Kalka to Tipra (Near Parwanoo) (4.3. kms) at an anticipated cost of Rs.1.6 crores was approved in April, 1982. The construction of the line upto Parwanoo proper could not be approved as very little area is available in the hilly terrair for location of a terminal station and yard, besides, the extremely difficult terrain from Tipra to Parwanoo. As a result of further investigations, it was found that the cost of the extension by 2.2 kms. will be about Rs. 4.5 crores.

The Government of Himachal Pradesh, however, desired that the proposal for having the Kalka-Parwanoo B G line be dropped and no further action be taken in respect of this railway line,

In view of the above and the severe constraints of resources, this work has been dropped.

[Deptt. of Tourism O.M. No. 16 ( 17)/85-Admn. III dt. 13-1-1986]

**Recommendation (Sl. No. 8, para 3 12)**

The Committee also commend the proposal already mooted by Himachal Pradesh Hotel and Restaurant Association for starting of direct train linking Bombay/Calcutta with Kalka as being in the interest of tourism promotion. The Committee hope that the Ministry of Railways will consider the proposal favourably for implementation in the near future.

**Reply of Government**

Kalka is directly connected with Howrah *via* Delhi by 1/2 Kalka-Howrah Mail. The other two trains which also connect Kalka with New Delhi are 195/196 Himalayan Queen (6 days a week) and 183/184 Hatia-Kalka Express (6 days a week). Kalka is further connected with Simla with suitable rail services.

The passengers desirous of travelling to Bombay/Howrah can conveniently avail of the train services from Delhi/New Delhi with a change over at New Delhi/Delhi from where Rajdhani Express and other trains are also available.

The present resources position does not permit for introduction of a direct train from Kalka to Bombay at the moment.

[Deptt. of Tourism O.M. No. 16(17)/85.Admn.III  
dated 13.1.1986]

**Recommendation (Sl. No. 11, para 4.12)**

The Committee emphasise the need for introduction of a system of periodical as well surprise inspection of hotels already given a classification by the Department of Tourism to ensure that the facilities in the context of which the hotel was given a particular classification continue to be available in the hotel all the time. In this context the Committee are surprised that even though inspection procedure of some sort did exist, there has been no occasion to declassify any hotel since 1980 for violating the prescribed standard of facilities. The Committee would like the Department to enjoin upon the inspecting authorities to make the inspections thorough and meaningful in one spell and not to hesitate in declassifying a hotel on the spot if the requisite facilities are found to have deteriorated and being below the prescribed standard.

**Reply of Government**

In the system of classification and approval there is already a provision for re-classification of hotels. This could not be done in the past due to various constraints. It has now been decided to inspect all classified hotels and approved restaurants at regular intervals and take necessary action if the standard of services and facilities are found deficient. However, in view of a steady increase in the number of classified hotels and approved restaurants there is need to augment the Hotel & Restaurant Approval & Classification Cell in the Deptt. of Tourism to effectively control all such hotels and restaurants. As regards declassification of hotels where standards are found to have deteriorated doing so right at the time of inspection may perhaps be a little too harsh. It will be fair to give the hotels so found wanting a reasonable opportunity and if the hotels fail to bring about the desired improvements within the stipulated period, they should be down graded or declassified.

[Deptt. of Tourism O.M. No. 16 (17)/85 Adm.-III dt. 13-1-1986].

**CHAPTER V**  
**RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT**  
**OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT**  
**ARE STILL AWAITED**

**-NIL-**

**NEW DELHI ;**  
**April 9, 1936**  

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**Chaitra 19, 1908 (S)**

**CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI,**  
**Chairman,**  
**Estimates Committee.**

[Pl. see Recommendation (Sl. No. 1, para 2-7)]

**ANNEXURE 'A'***Percentage of foreign tourists staying for at least one night in different States and Zones of India*

State/Zone (0)	Percent visiting (1)
<b>East Zone</b>	
Assam	0.39
Nagaland	0.02
Meghalaya	0.02
Manipur	0.01
Tripura	0.04
West Bengal	10.34
Orissa	1.58
Bihar	3.29
Sikkim	0.24
Andaman	0.05
<b>North Zone</b>	
Uttar Pradesh	23.72
Delhi	53.45
Himachal Pradesh	2.30
Jammu & Kashmir	8.56
Punjab	5.95
Chandigarh	1.32
Haryana	0.14
Rajasthan	15.33
<b>West Zone</b>	
Madhya Pradesh	4.37
Gujarat	3.40



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0	1
Maharashtra	47.19
Goa, Daman and Diu	6.90
<b>South Zone</b>	
Karnataka	10.52
Kerala	6.91
Tamil Nadu	21.13
Andhra Pradesh	4.63
Pondicherry	1.62

[Please see Recommendation (Sl. No. 24, para 7.22)]

**ANNEXURE 'B'**

**Budgetary figures for Operations U.K., Europe, America and others for the past five years  
(inclusive of Air India's share)**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	NON-PLAN				PLAN	GRAND TOTAL
	Salaries	TA	OE	RRT		
<b>U.K.</b>						
1980-81	6.39	0.51	4.99	2.54	13.24	27.68
1981-82	7.32	0.47	6.53	1.28	15.05	30.65
1982-83	7.61	0.66*	7.84	—	14.65	30.76
1983-84	10.52	0.88	8.76	4.93	13.06	38.15
1984-85	8.50	0.97	7.80	6.83	15.80	39.50
<b>EUROPE</b>						
1980-81	31.75	3.59	20.98*	—	59.12	125.44

Note \* Inclusive of RRT.

1981-82	37.35	2.00	23.55	—	53.70	116.61	6.50	123.11
1982-83	40.70	3.90	30.52	—	48.25	123.37	12.50	135.87
1983-84	45.00	4.30	35.00	—	53.00	137.30	17.00	154.30
1984-85	50.56	6.24	40.00	—	56.21	153.01	20.90	173.91
<b>AMERICA</b>								
1980-81	18.26	4.10	24.20*	—	44.95	91.01	—	91.01
1981-82	19.15	3.64	27.31	—	45.10	95.20	7.50	102.70
1982-83	20.00	5.00	24.30	—	44.45	93.75	6.25	100.00
1983-84	26.50	—	46.88	—	36.00	109.38	7.45	116.83
1984-85	28.13	3.17	50.00	—	42.35	123.65	17.27	140.92
<b>EAST ASIA</b>								
1980-81	8.54	0.80	1.85	5.65	11.52	28.36	—	28.36
1981-82	9.16	1.10	2.40	4.65	15.55	33.86	—	33.86
1982-83	10.82	1.50	2.96	6.50	14.00	35.87	4.80	40.58
1983-84	9.74	1.60	3.13	7.33	16.30	38.10	10.00	48.10
1984-85	10.21	1.76	3.30	7.69	15.06	38.02	10.50	48.52

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Note \* Inclusive of RRT.

Year	NON-PLAN					PLAN	GRAND TOTAL
	Salaries	TA	OE	RRT	Pub & P		
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>							
1980-81	11.73	1.13	2.76	6.02	8.59	—	30.23
1981-82	12.94	2.69	4.29	11.99	9.47	7.20	48.58
1982-83	13.50	2.00	2.88	13.36	10.85	6.30	48.89
1983-84	14.93	2.20	3.50	16.51	12.00	9.20	58.34
1984-85	14.34	2.97	5.00	15.90	11.59	18.80	68.69
<b>WEST ASIA</b>							
1980-81	5.24	0.41	2.72	4.96	7.13	—	20.46
1981-82	5.26	1.03	2.20	5.40	7.36	6.50	27.75
1982-83	5.92	1.30	3.03	5.90	6.55	8.35	31.05
1983-84	7.39	2.00	4.00	6.48	7.00	13.30	40.17
1984-85	7.74	2.20	4.75	11.00	6.49	17.61	49.79

## APPENDIX

### *(Vide Introduction of the Report*

### *Analysis of Action Taken by Government on the 6th Report of Estimates Committee (Eighth Lok Sabha)*

I. Total number of Recommendations		24
II. Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by Government		
(Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23 and 24)		17
Percentage		70.84%
III. Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies		
(Nos. 6, 20, 21 and 22)	Total	4
Percentage		16.66%
IV. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee		
(Nos. 7, 8 and 11)	Total	3
Percentage		12.50%
V. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited		

NIL