

Tourists in Amritsar

5950. S. ATINDER PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of domestic and foreign pilgrims and tourists visiting Amritsar in Punjab every year;

(b) whether Government propose to develop Amritsar as an international centre of pilgrimage and tourism in view of its glorious historical heritage;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) As per the information available from the State Government, the number of domestic and foreign tourists who visited Amritsar during 1989 were 17,841 and 8,404 respectively.

(b) and (c). Amritsar is already an international tourist centre and its being given publicity in the overseas markets.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Ratification of UN Convention against Trafficking in drugs and Psychotropic substances

5951. SHRI PARASRAM
BHARDWAJ:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to ratify the U.N. Convention against illicit

traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances adopted at the U.N. Conference of plenipotentiaries on 19 December, 1989; and

(b) if so, the details about cooperation extended by India so far as the implementation of its provisions is concerned?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. India's instrument of accession to the U.N. Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988 has been deposited with the U.N. Secretary-General on 27.3.1990. Necessary provisions relating to major Articles of the said Convention had already been incorporated in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

India is extending full co-operation to the various countries in the fight against drug trafficking and has bilateral arrangements with Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, United States of America and Mauritius to review matters relating to illicit drug trafficking. Drug liaison officers from United Kingdom, Canada, United States of America and West Germany have been allowed to be posted in India as envisaged under Article 9 of the aforesaid Convention.

Waiving off Loans of Fisherfolk

5952. SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to waive off loans upto ten thousand rupees only for the small fisherfolk as is being done for the farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). The