

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH): (a) No decision has been taken to scrap the Haldia Plant of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation.

(b) and (c). The delay in commissioning the project has been due to a variety of circumstances including mismatched equipment related to a variety of foreign credit, power shortage and disturbed industrial relations. No major irregularities have, however, been brought to notice.

(d) While proposals for revamping the plant are being pursued, workers have not been retrenched.

Vikram Project

*118. SHRI M. M. PALLAM RAJU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of the 'Vikram' project of the Department of Telecommunications;

(b) the estimated cost of the project;

(c) whether indigenous technology is available to meet the project needs; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to import any equipment for this project; and if so, the approximate value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SANJAY SINGH): (a) The objectives of the 'Vikram' project is to set-up a Packet Switched Public Data network to provide data communication.

(b) The estimated FOB cost of the imported equipment for 'Vikram' project in 1989 was Rs. 13.87 crores.

(c) and (d). It has been decided to set up Packet Switched Data Network in two phases. In phase I small capacity indigenously available switches is to be used. Phase II of the network will consist of expanding the above network with larger switches.

Foreign Tourists

*119. SHRI A. K. A. ABDUL SAMAD:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists who visited India from 1988 on wards year-wise and country-wise;

(b) the target fixed for receiving foreign tourists during 1990, country-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government are also aware that the Soviet Tourist Authorities have imposed restriction on their visitors as a result of which the number of tourists coming from USSR is decreasing this year;

(d) if so, the extent of loss incurred by the India Tourism Development Corporation; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to attract more tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINHA): (a) The country-wise and year-wise tourist traffic to India in respect of the major tourist generating countries since 1988 are as given below:

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>1988</i>	<i>1989</i>	<i>1990 (Jan-Aug)</i>
1.	U. K.	200,509	229,496	143,667
2.	U. S. A.	122,888	134,314	79,448

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>1988</i>	<i>1989</i>	<i>1990 (Jan-Aug)</i>
3.	F. R. G	76,371	78,431	56,738
4.	France	69,799	78,001	44,189
5.	Sri Lanka	70,640	67,680	42,924
6.	Japan	49,244	58,707	39,243
7.	Italy	47,612	50,751	32,228
8.	Canada	37,498	40,306	26,167
9.	U. S. S. R.	33,739	36,940	24,002
10.	Malaysia	29,635	33,120	20,276
11.	Others*	502,057	529,486	340,882
Total		1,239,992	1,337,232	840,764

* Excluding the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh.

(b) A growth target of about 8 percent was envisaged on tourist arrivals during 1990.

(c) The inflow of tourist traffic from Soviet Union to India has been adversely affected in the later parts of the year due to various developments in that country.

(d) It is not possible to quantify the loss as India Tourism Development Corporation does not maintain the accounts nationality-wise.

(e) The steps initiated by the Government to attract more tourists to India include liberalisation of charter policy, introduction of multientry visas for a period of 5 years, provision for the payment of visa fees by cheques/credit cards, improvement of tourist facilitation, relaxation of rules regarding restricted area permits, up-gradation of tourism infrastructural facilities, creation of money changing facilities in hotels and other establishments, etc. The year 1991 has also been declared as "India Tourism Year" to improve

the image of India, as a holiday destination.

[*Translation*]

National Pulses Development Programme

*120. SHRI PHOOL CHAND
VERMA:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had launched a National Pulses Development Programme in 1986-87;

(b) whether the production of pulses per hectare in the country is still much less in comparison to other countries;

(c) if so, whether any concrete steps are being taken by the Government to increase the average production of pulses in the country; and