

known social worker, Shri Thevar participated actively in the co-operative movement and held various offices in several co-operative organisations.

Shri Thevar passed away on 10 July, 1989 at his native place Kundamaraikkadu, Tamil Nadu, at the age of 76.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

Hon'ble Members, I have also to refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Ayatollah Rohallah Khomeini, the leader of Islamic revolution in Iran and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Ayatollah Khomeini guided the destiny of Iran for more than a decade and became "Valy-e-Faqih", - the religious ruler. The outpouring of grief and concern during the weeks after his death were indicative of the place he had in the hearts and minds of his people.

On behalf of this House I would like to convey our sincere condolences to the Government and the people of Iran and to the family of late Ayatollah Khomeini.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Diesel Requirement of Drought Affected States

*1. SHRIPARASRAMBHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATU-

RAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of increase in the demand for diesel in the country due to drought;

(b) the names of affected States;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to meet this demand in the far flung rural areas of the country; and

(d) the quantity of crude oil and diesel likely to be imported on this account and the cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b): The States of Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh have requested for Central assistance for drought during pre-Monsoon period of 1989-90 due to inadequate rainfall during this period. Uttar Pradesh has also requested for increased supply of diesel (HSD) for irrigation purposes. In view of increased demand, the off-take of HSD in these States including UP during June and July (upto 11th) 1989 have been more than the off-take during the same period last year.

(c) A contingent plan for maximisation of production, transportation and supply of HSD and monitoring of supplies/stocks in the likely affected areas has been drawn.

(d) It is too early to make any assessment in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: The hon. Minister deserves to be congratulated

for the efforts made and the cooperation extended by his Ministry during drought in 1987 in my constituency but the farmers in Chhatisgarh area of Madhya Pradesh could not get adequate supply of diesel and as a result they had to face lot of difficulties during the drought. Will the hon. Minister fix quota of diesel for the farmers to deal with such a situation?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Sir, the hon. Member has expressed his concern over the problems of farmers. I would like to tell him that the Government has effectively dealt with the situation which had arisen as a result of the worst drought of the century and did not allow scarcity of any item. It is too early to say whether we would be having another spell of drought? Some areas have experienced less rainfall and the Government is trying its best to fulfil their requirements.

[English]

SHRI A.J.V.B. Maheswara Rao. Sir, in the coastal area of Andhra Pradesh, agriculturists are facing so many problems due to the scarcity of diesel in the plantation season. So, what steps are taken by the Government in Andhra Pradesh to reduce the scarcity of diesel?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Sir, we have received no request or complaint like this from Andhra Pradesh. If they let us know, we will take care of it. We have adequate stock.

*2. **SHRI K. PRADHANI:** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) The number of foreign tourists who visited India during 1988-89;

(b) the corresponding figures of tourists during the years 1986-87 and 1987-88; and

(c) the names of the countries from where these tourists came?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b): The number of foreign tourists who visited India during the last three financial years are as given below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Tourist Arrivals</i>
1986-87	14,61,910
1987-88	15,13,487
1988-89	16,19,298

(c) The names of the first 12 countries from which tourists visited India during 1988-89 are as follows:

1. U.K.
2. Bangladesh
3. Pakistan
4. U.S.A.
5. F.R.G.
6. France
7. Sri Lanka
8. Japan
9. Italy
10. Canada
11. U.S.S.R.
12. Switzerland

SHRI K. PRADHANI: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the year-wise foreign exchange during the last three years.

The foreign exchange earned in 1986-87 was Rs. 1780 crores; in 1987-88, it was Rs. 1909 crores and in 1988-89, it is Rs. 2122 crores.

SHRI K. PRADHANI: I would like to know further from the hon. Minister the steps to be taken by the Government in the near future to attract the foreign tourists and also specially in Orissa whether they are going to create some infrastructure to attract foreign tourists? It is a very good place for the visit of foreign tourists.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, many steps have been taken. We have taken steps to develop the infrastructure which is necessary. We have taken steps to see that the tourists product is marketed throughout the world. As far as Orissa is concerned, many steps have also been taken. The State Government has prepared the Five Year Plan and we are also helping them to prepare the Five year Plan. The chartered flights are allowed to go there and we have extended the runways at so many places. The tourist spots are being beautified also.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Sir, from the answer we find that there are practically no tourists from the Gulf countries and the European countries, much less from African and Latin American countries. What are the reasons for not attracting tourists from these countries? Will try to extend some concessions to attract the tourists from Gulf countries, European countries and Latin American countries?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Names of only first 12 countries are given in the answer, it is not that tourists are coming only from those countries and that they are not

coming from other countries. We have the details of the tourists coming from other countries also and a detailed report can be supplied to the hon. Member. I can say that tourists from Gulf countries as well as from some of the Latin American countries are coming to India.

PROF K.V. THOMAS: The data given by the hon. Minister indicates that the tourists flow is increasing every year. This is a very good sign. Kerala is one of the few States which has got a lot of tourists potential. The tourists are coming by chartered flights. One of the drawbacks of Kerala is that even though we have got 3 airports and Trivandrum has the facility to receive the international flights, the chartered flights are not allowed to make use of the 3 airports in Kerala, that is, Calicut, Cochin and Trivandrum.

May I know from the hon. Minister, whether chartered flights will be allowed to operate in all these three airports in Kerala?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We are allowing chartered flights to go to certain cities in the country where the tourists want to go. If it is found out that the tourists coming to India are wanting to go to these places, where today they are not going, it should not be difficult to allow them to go there.

SHRI INDERJIT GUPTA: According to the figures which the hon. Minister has given in the statement, the total number of tourists arrival in the last three years has been going up. It is a good sign. But I would like to know what are the corresponding figures for these three years in respect of Kashmir. It is not a fact that the tourist traffic to Kashmir has been adversely affected by the very serious law and order situation there, which is keeping foreign tourists off.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: Punjab also.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Yes, Punjab also. But Kashmir was one of the top tourist attraction for foreigners. I would like to know what is the position in regard to that.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The Central Government looks after the tourists coming to the entire country and the figures which I have given relate to the entire country as such. I have to collect the figures from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. They have a Tourist Department which looks after that. But as far as the heart of the question is concerned, well, we have seen that the number of tourists coming to Kashmir has gone down to some extent this year, but that is not mainly because of what is happening over there, but also because of the publicity given to that. If wide publicity is given to a small thing, sometimes the tourists are scared away. The State Government is doing its best to maintain the law and order situation and we are also helping them to maintain the law and order situation. But sometimes, things are projected out of proportion and that scares away the tourists.

[Translation]

PROF NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that tourism is an important industry. I would like to know the names of the countries where publicity regarding tourism is being made through television and newspapers to attract foreign tourists to India?

Secondly, I would like to know about the schemes that have been formulated to attract foreign tourist to Rajasthan, particularly to Chittorgarh?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I would like to inform the House that we give wide publicity to places of tourist attraction and tourism in general in foreign countries through newspapers and audio-visual media and

whenever conferences on tourism are organised abroad, we send our representatives there. Similarly, we organise festival of India both here in the country as well as abroad. Besides, we are organising other programmes like Visit India' which have favourable impact on our tourism.

So far as the question of encouraging tourism in Rajasthan is concerned, I would like to inform that the Rajasthan Government is looking after tourism development work properly and the Central Government also renders suitable assistance to the State Government. Chittorgarh is an important place of tourist attraction and most of the tourists, particularly, domestic tourists are interested to visit this place. Rajasthan Government is providing all facilities and as far as possible we are also assisting the State Government.

[English]

Increase in Newsprint Prices

*4. CH. KHURSHID AHMED:
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newspaper industry is facing crisis due to steep hike in prices of newsprint and telecom service rates;

(b) if so, the percentage increase in the prices of newsprint and the reasons therefor;

(c) the annual production of newsprint as compared to its production capacity;

(d) the percentage of the demand being met indigenously and the quantity of newsprint being imported annually to bridge the gap;