

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (d). Three contracts entered into STC for jute goods export were cancelled during the current financial year as detailed below :

- (i) Order from M/s. Sharakate Toavani Tahiem Va Tozin, Iran for 12 million yards of hessian cloth in different sizes valued at Rs. 50370000;
- (ii) Contract for export of 3 lakhs yards of jute carpet backing cloth worth Rs. 75 lakhs approximately finalised by STC with M/s. Sherkata Sahami Khass Kharkhanejat Dadfar, Teheran;
- (iii) A contract between STC and National Agricultural Marketing Board of Zambia (Namboard) for five million pieces of B. Twill bags at the rate of US \$ 79.15 per 100 bags c.i.f. Dar-es salam.

2. The reason for cancellation of these contracts were reluctance of the buyers probably on account of falling prices and foreign exchange problems.

(c) Government has taken following steps to improve export of jute goods :

- (i) providing higher cash compensatory support to jute carpet backing cloth and yarn on the basis of matching performance by the industry.
- (ii) formation of STC-jute industry consortium on 50 : 50 loss sharing basis for export of carpet backing cloth to North America.
- (iii) encouraging development of exportable products through R and D efforts and
- (iv) constituting a new JMDC and jute fund out of proceeds of jute to give boost to R and D of efforts and export promotion.

(d) The export target of 3.0 lakh tonnes valued round Rs. 250/275 crores. for the

current financial year is likely to be reached.

Decline in Occupancy in 5-Star Hotels in Delhi

*93. SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO :
SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI
LAKSHMI :

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the occupancy ratio of 5-star hotels like Ashoka, Akbar, etc., in the capital during the last three years;

(b) whether India Tourism Development Corporation has continually been running into loss for the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that the foreign tourists are hesitant to visit India due to terrorist activities in the country;

(d) if not, the reasons for the decrease in tourist traffic; and

(e) the action taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) The occupancy ratio of the ITDC and non-ITDC 5-star hotels located in the capital are given in the statement below.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). There was a significant decline in the inflow of foreign tourists in 1984 and the first-half of 1985 on account of a series of adverse circumstances in our country as also some of our neighbouring countries including the terrorist activities, the adverse media coverage these events received abroad, the imposition of blanket visa requirements on all foreigners visiting India, and the advice issued by a large number of foreign countries to their nationals in November and December not to visit India on account of disturbed law and order conditions.

(e) The action taken by the Government to counteract the effects of adverse media publicity abroad include re-assurance campaign in the international media seeking to project India as a country of continental dimensions which remain free from law and order trouble despite the out-break of terrorist activities in some parts of the country, inviting media representatives and selected

tour operators and travel agents to visit India to see for themselves that things were normal, requesting the foreign government through our External Affairs Ministry and our overseas missions to withdraw their directives against their nationals visiting India and sending promotional delegations abroad and holding travel marts etc. with a view to instilling confidence.

Statement

Name of the Hotel	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
	(Occupancy Ratio%)		
I.T.D.C. Hotel			
1. Ashoka Hotel	50	43	47
2. Akbar Hotel	69	44	34
3. Qutab Hotel	74	54	57
4. Samrat Hotel	41	32	43
Non-ITDC Hotel			
1. Oberoi Intercontionental	81.80	85.70	54.95
2. Maurya Sheration	76.42	69.82	78.00
3. Taj Mahal	90.30	86.00	84.00
4. Siddharth Continental	51.00	64.00	60.00
5. Imperial	84.00	74.00	81.00
6. Siddharth	79.98	76.65	72.00
7. Claridges	80.90	80.70	82.40
8. Taj Palace	*—	50.80	65.30
9. Hyatt Ragency	*—	58.72	71.48
10. Contaur	75.55	46.00	51.57

*These hotels started functioning in late 1982.

Shortage of Small Coins and Currency Notes

*94. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is still an acute shortage of small coins and currency notes in the country; and

(b) the steps being taken to ease the shortage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) There have been reports regarding acute shortage of small coins and Re. 1/- notes from various parts of the country. However, the severity