

photographic exhibitions and production of films which are shown on TV or commercial theatres abroad.

The strategy of marketing India's tourism overseas underwent a significant change from July 1968 onwards with the introduction of 'Operation Scheme'. Under this scheme, Air India being the national carrier and interested in growth of air traffic from and to India, has joined hands with the Department of Tourism in undertaking a more vigorous market oriented promotional strategy overseas. This scheme has given the overseas Tourist Offices the required flexibility in order to operate effectively in a highly competitive market.

One of the measures recently adopted by the Ministry to increase tourist traffic is to encourage the operation of charters to India from countries with potential of tourist traffic.

To facilitate tourist arrivals, the Government have already undertaken several measures to reduce congestion at international airports with the opening of a new Air Terminal Building at Bombay and expansion of existing facilities at Delhi airport. The second module of the international terminal at Bombay is under construction. A new airport terminal for Delhi has also been planned and the work on this project has already started. A new domestic terminal at Madras airport has also been taken in hand.

To facilitate the movement within the country, the Indian Airlines fleet has been substantially augmented and strengthened with the addition of air buses and Boeing 737s and further additions are under consideration of the Government. More and more airports are being made ready for receiving Bigger jet aircraft. Several new hotels are scheduled to come up in various parts of the country which will relieve the shortage of accommodation. There are at present 363

functioning hotels with 22,300 rooms on the approved list of the Department. Another 154 hotel projects have been planned in the country which will add 12,196 rooms to the existing capacity making a total of 34,496 in the next two or three years. For the Asian Games, ten new hotel projects in the capital have been approved which will add another 3555 rooms to the hotel capacity in Delhi. To further broad-base the infrastructural facilities in India to encourage both foreign and domestic tourist traffic to new tourist centres, the Department has recently identified 440 tourist centres for integrated tourism development.

(b) Based on the available information, it is true that several countries in the third world including Singapore which are smaller in size than India have received percentage-wise more tourists. In terms of absolute numbers, however, India has done better than many of these countries. One of the important reasons for the higher percentage growth could be that these countries have been able to develop their tourism infrastructural facilities faster than India due to their being smaller in size and because of the higher priority given by them to the development of tourism. However, in terms of tourist nights, India has recorded a very rapid growth and has the first position among the developing countries.

Import Duty on Oil

*96 SHRI N. E. HORO :
SHRI ARJUN SETHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the import duty on palm oil rapeseed oil ; soyabean oil and sunflower oil has been raised by Government ; and

(b) if so, to what extent and the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA) :

(a) and (b) : Yes, Sir. The import duty (Basic + auxiliary) on these oils have been raised in two instalments. On 18-7-1981, the rate of duty was raised from 12.5 per cent to 42.5 per cent *ad valorem* in order to mop up part of the margin between the domestic market prices and CIF prices of these oils. Subsequently, the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1981 was promulgated on 26th July, 1981. The rate of duty on palm oil and sunflower oil has been raised to 150 per cent *ad valorem* and on rapeseed oil and soyabean oil to 45 per cent *ad valorem*.

Walk Through System at Airports

*97. SHRI BHEEKHA BHAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the "Walk Through System" at the airports has been found to be an open Licence to the smugglers in the garb of special facility for quick clearance of passengers;

(b) whether it is a fact that every passengers who is selected for checking by customs officers is found carrying some dutiable items in his baggage;

(c) whether there has been decrease in revenue since the introduction of this system at the airports; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose considering replacement of this system to check smuggling of goods into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA) :

(a) No Sir. The system was introduced as a much needed facility for

the genuine tourists and passengers who have no dutiable goods to declare. Reports received by the Government indicate that the new procedure is working well and has greatly facilitated the clearance of the foreign tourists.

(b) No Sir. Passengers carrying dutiable items form a small percentage of those that are selected for check by the Customs.

(c) No Sir. The duty collections have, in fact, registered an increase.

(d) Does not arise. However, Government is alive to the need for strict vigil over the possible activities of smugglers.

Completion of Hotel Kanishk and Ashok Yatri Niwas in New Delhi

*98. SHRI NARAYAN CHOBEY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hotel Kanishk and Ashok Yatri Niwas in New Delhi will be completed before Asian Games in 1982;

(b) if so, the details of the work to be carried out for completion;

(c) whether steps have been taken for supplying marble, Dholpur stone, furniture and anodised aluminium doors and windows for Kanishk Hotel; and

(d) if so, full details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A.P. SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The structural work of the two Hotels is nearing completion, and finishing items like flooring,