

operations; it was requested in the letter that in order to promote tourist traffic to Eastern India, foreign airlines should be persuaded to touch Calcutta Airport as in the past.

(c) In regard to utilisation of the facilities by foreign airlines, at present, seven foreign airlines are operating through Calcutta. At the time of negotiating or reviewing the bilateral air services agreements, Calcutta is invariably offered as a point of call to foreign airlines. The final choice, however, rests with the foreign airlines.

**PROF. RUP CHAND PAL:** You may agree with me that Calcutta Airport is one of the premier international airports in our country. According to the International Airport Authority of India and also the International Pilots Federation it is one of the best airports in the world. But since 1967 as many as 10 foreign airlines were allowed to discontinue their Calcutta services. They include Air France, Lufthansa, Swiss Air, Japan Airlines and KLM. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that several international airlines which discontinued Calcutta services several years ago, are now reported to be keenly interested in touching Dum Dum Airport again? Is it not a fact that KLM, Korean Airlines, Pan American Airways and Air Canada have already approached the Government of India in this regard but the Government has not given permission to them till now?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA):** It is not a fact that the airlines, the names of which my friend has just now mentioned, have approached us for having landing rights at Calcutta and we have not agreed to that. As a matter of fact, as it has already been stated in the main answer to the question, whenever negotiations take place with various countries for giving them air landing rights we offer them Calcutta. But unfortunately, none of them has

agreed to that. In this respect I would like to tell my hon. friend that we will be too happy if any airline likes to operate from Calcutta.

**PROF. RUP CHAND PAL:** Is it not a fact that during the previous two years Air India's revenue earnings from its Eastern India offices were over Rs. 7 crores and Rs. 8 crores respectively?

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA:** I do not have the exact figures with me. But if the hon. Member wants to know that I can give the figures.

So far as revenue earning by Air India is concerned, there is no doubt that it has increased.

**SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR:** Just like Calcutta, Trivandrum is also an international airport....

**MR. SPEAKER:** Irrelevant.

**SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY:** The Minister has just now said that whenever they negotiate with foreign companies they always refer to Calcutta to be included as a landing ground but the foreign companies do not agree to that. May I know from the hon. Minister the reasons for their not expressing a desire to have landing facilities in Calcutta?

**SHRI A. P. SHARMA:** We do not ask the reasons from those airlines. They are free to choose their own place of landing. I also make it clear that we cannot compel them to choose a particular place because in that case, they will also compel us to choose a particular place in their country for landing purposes, which may not be suitable to us.

#### Gem Stones Found in Tamil Nadu

\*185. **SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH CHAUDHARY:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gemstones are found in Tamil Nadu and

secret trade exists in the gems but no systematic effort has been made to assess the potential deposit;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Geological Survey of India has located moon stones, beryl and rubies in Coimbatore and Kanyakumari districts;

(c) whether Government propose to undertake investigations to locate promising gem stones tracts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: (a) and (b). After detailed work in 1967-68 Geological Survey of India has reported the occurrences of moon-stone, beryl and ruby in Kangayam area of Coimbatore district and gem variety chrysoberyl in the district of Kanyakumari. No systematic assessment of the potentiality of the gem stone tracts has been done. It is, however, known that the occurrences are sporadic and irregular. Local people are said to collect such stones after the rains. No information is available about secret trade in gem stones.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir The Geological Survey of India proposes to take up gem stone investigation in Tamil Nadu in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu State Geology Department. This item has been included in the Field Season programme 1981-82 of Geological Survey of India Tamil Nadu Circle in parts of Salem, Dharmapuri, Tiruchirapalli, Madurai, Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli Districts.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री मनफूल सिंह की आंख बड़ी तेज है। कहां राजस्थान में तामिलनाडु जाकर हीरे-जवाहिरात तलाश किए हैं।

श्री मनफूल सिंह चौधरी : राजस्थान के बहुत से लोग तामिलनाडु में रहते हैं।

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: The precious stones occur sporadically in

many places in different parts of the country. Recently I had asked a question about Orissa in connection with this. May I know. . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Not allowed. Next question.

#### Growth Rate of Tourism in Karnataka State

\*187. SHRI S. B. SINDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth of tourism has not shown encouraging trends in Karnataka State;

(b) whether any statistics have been maintained reflecting the tourism receipts for Karnataka for the last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) what concrete steps Government propose to take to publicise scenic splendours, historic grandeur and nature's beauty in Karnataka to attract more tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Statement

The statistics of international tourist arrivals to India are compiled on an all-India basis and not on State-wise basis. However, on the basis of Foreign Tourist Survey conducted during 1976-77, it was estimated that of all the foreign tourists visiting India, 8.84% visited Bangalore and 2.77% visited Mysore in the State of Karnataka. On this basis, the estimated number of tourists who visited Bangalore and Mysore during 1980 is projected at 71,000 and 22,000 respectively.

2. As regards the compilation of domestic tourists statistics, the State