

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF CIVIL AVIATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) During 1981, the number of foreign tourists who disembarked at various ports in Southern India totalled 1.33 lakhs, recording an increase of 9.2 per cent; in the case of Northern India the number of foreign tourists was 3.30 lakhs, recording an increase of 4.7 per cent over the previous year. Statistics regarding domestic tourists is not available.

(b) Madras Airport has all the facilities for the operation of all types of aircraft including B-747. In order to meet the increase in the domestic traffic, a new domestic terminal complex is being developed at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.04 crores. This is likely to be commissioned in 1985.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

Decline in export earnings of STC

*198. SHRI B. V. DESAI:

SHRI M. V CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export earnings of the State Trading Corporation declined by 11 per cent in the first five months (April—August) of the current financial year compared with same period of last year;

(b) if so, to what extent the export earnings have fallen in comparison to the last year; and

(c) what are the main factors responsible for this decline and what steps are being taken by Government to improve the export earnings of the State Trading Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) STC's exports declined from Rs. 161 crores during April—August 1981 to Rs. 141 crores during April—August 1982.

(c) The main factors responsible for the shortfall in exports during the first 5 months of the current financial year are:

(i) lower export of agricultural commodities, namely, rice, coffee, opium, barley.

(ii) lower exports of semi-processed leather.

Corrective measures have been adopted by the Corporation to reverse this trend. Greater emphasis is being put on the export of manufactured, valued added, non-canalised items. Greater efforts are being made to increase exports to West Asian, North African and South Asian markets. Joint ventures with foreign collaborations are being put up with substantial buy-back arrangements. The organisational set up of the Corporation has been restructured to meet the new challenges. In one month only i.e. in September '82 Exports have been of the order of Rs. 107 crores as compared to Rs. 52 crores in September '81.

Maxi meals at mini prices by ITDC

*199. SHRI JAI NARAYAN ROAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITDC has decided to start the system of maxi meals at mini prices in the Central and State Government Offices to cater to the needs of the employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when it would be started; and

(c) if not, the specific reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c). The information is not well founded. ITDC has no plans to provide maxi meals prices for the Central/State Government employees.