

13. Lakshadweep has been opened to foreign tourists subject to prior clearance.
14. Domestically, we have tried to create a climate in favour of tourism by starting a 'courtesy to tourist' campaign through hoardings, advertising and through films released through cinema circuits.
15. We have started the new year with the opening a new Tourist Office at Kuwait to intensify our promotion in the Arab countries.

Enquiry into Tax Evasion by Birlas

1591. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether enquiry with regard to tax evasion and other malpractices against Birlas was stopped in 1975; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Government have constituted a Commission of Inquiry on Large Industrial Houses to inquire into irregularities and lapses pointed out in the Report of the Industrial Licensing Policy Inquiry Committee (ILPIC). A total number of 205 concerns are listed in ILPIC Report as

those belonging to the Birla Group. The Commission is proceeding with its investigation/inquiry into the activities of the majority of Birla concerns as required by its terms of reference, but in respect of some terms of references writ petitions had been filed by the Birla concerns in Calcutta High Court and stay orders had been obtained in 28 cases. The work of the Commission is proceeding against the cases of Birla concerns not covered by stay orders.

Government had filed petitions in the Calcutta High Court in September last year for the vacation of stay orders. It is expected that these petitions might come up for hearing sometime in February this year.

Private Hotels with Foreign Collaboration

1592. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given its approval for setting up some private hotels in the country with foreign collaboration; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. There are the following four private hotels in the country which are already functioning with foreign collaboration:—

S. No.	Name of the Hotel	Name of the Indian Company	Name of the foreign Company
1	Oberoi Intercontinental, New Delhi.	East India Hotels Co. Ltd.	Intercontinental Hotels Corp. USA.
2	Taj Intercontinental, Bombay.	Indian Hotels Co. Ltd.	Intercontinental Hotels Corp. USA.
3	Oberoi Sheraton, Bombay	East India Hotels Co. Ltd.	Sheraton International, USA.
4	Holiday Inn, Agra	Northern India Hotels Ltd.	Holiday Inns Inc. USA.