

(d) if so, whether Central Government propose to extend Central aid for development of Digha; and

(e) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) While Digha is the nearest beach to Calcutta, Gopalpur-on-Sea and Puri are other popular beach resorts in Eastern India.

(b) Since the Department of Tourism does not maintain tourist statistics on place-wise basis, no figures of visitors to Digha during the last three years are available in the Department.

(c) to (e). Due to constraint on resources necessitating a selected approach to the development of tourist facilities, Digha has not been included for development in the Central Sector. The State Government, however, has provided for the expansion of their existing tourist lodge at Digha in 1977-78 to cope with the increase in tourist traffic to Digha.

Tourist Potentialities of Ooty

*599. **SHRI P. S. RAMALINGAM:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the immense tourist potentialities of Ooty which is called 'Queen of Hills';

(b) the present position for catering to the amenities of tourists there;

(c) the average inflow of foreign tourist during the last three years; and

(d) the concrete measures taken or proposed to be taken by way of promotional and developmental efforts so as to attract a larger volume of tourist traffic to that place?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b). Realising the importance of Ooty as a tourist centre, particularly for domestic tourists, the Central Department of Tourism subsidised the opening of a Tourist Bureau and the construction of a tourist bungalow at Ooty in the Second and Third Plans respectively.

(c) Since statistics of international tourist arrivals are compiled on an all-India basis and not on State-wise or place-wise basis, the statistical data on international tourists visiting Ooty is not available on year-wise basis. However, the Foreign Tourist Survey commissioned by the Central Department of Tourism in 1972-73 revealed that 1.25 per cent of the total number of tourist arrivals in India during this period visited Ooty.

(d) Ooty finds mention in the following promotional literature brought out by the Central Department of Tourism for wide distribution abroad:—

Sr. No.	Name of folder/insert	Language
1.	This is India (Folder)	English, German, French, Spanish, Italian.
2.	Discover India (Folder)	Do.
3.	The Southern Hills (Folder)	English.
4.	The Right Place (Tourist Map)	English.
5.	Discover Madras in the South (Folder)	English, French, German, Spanish, Italian.
6.	South India Hill Resorts (insert)	English