

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RABI RAY): (a) During 1977 and 1978, 385 and 1510 nurses respectively have been deputed to developing countries on Government to Government basis. We have, however, no information regarding nurses who have gone abroad and found employment through their own efforts or on the basis of their direct appointments by foreign governments/agencies.

(b) As a result of the Pay Commission's recommendations, the pay scales of nursing personnel have been revised. Uniform and Washing Allowance have also been revised upwards.

Setting up of S.T.C. Regional Office in Africa

*555. **SHRI M. V. CHANDRA SHEKHARA MURTHY:**

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Government are considering to set up a regional office of the State Trading Corporation in Africa:

(b) if so, the main reasons for the same:

(c) when the office is likely to be set up:

(d) whether any such offices are already set up in other countries; and

(e) if so, in which countries and to what extent their setting up has helped India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) to (c). As a step towards our new strategy for export promotion and to make STC's operations more effective and efficient, the Government have advised the STC to set up a Regional Trade Centre in

West Africa to cater to markets in Western and Central Africa in the next few months.

This would be an umbrella type organisation and would help in marketing Indian goods and tapping the vast export potential in this area. It would also disseminate knowledge and information about Indian capabilities and achievements in the Commercial/Industrial fields of interest to the countries of this area.

(d) and (e). In 1978-79, The Regional Concept was introduced by STC for the first time, with a view to providing closer linkages with corporate office and for adequate monitoring of the operations/performance of the branch offices. So far regional offices have been set up in Moscow, London, Hong Kong, Tokyo and New York. There is also a regional office in Delhi. It is too early to assess the impact. However, they will be of great help in the foreign trade activities of the S.T.C.

Development of Areas at Foot of Ajanta Hills

*556. **SHRI VIJAY KUMAR N. PATIL;**

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL;

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are plans to develop the areas at the foot of the Ajanta Hills for the purpose of providing facilities to tourists;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been formulated; and

(c) if so, whether Government of India have agreed to sanction the entire amount required for the scheme to Government of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.