

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Approximately 0.3%.

(c) While only a small increase is expected during 1968-69, efforts are being made that by the end of 1973-74, the number of foreign tourists coming to India increases by 200% with consequent increase in foreign exchange earnings.

(d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

A programme of tourist promotion at an estimated cost of Rs. 40.34 crores is at present under consideration for inclusion in the Fourth Five Year Plan. The salient features of the programme are:

(i) Improving existing facilities available at various tourist centres already visited by tourists;

(ii) Developing new areas on an integrated basis, e.g. Kovalam, Gulmarg and Goa, with the object of attracting destination traffic;

(iii) Providing better facilities at airports;

(iv) Arranging more satisfactory and more adequate transport facilities for overland journeys in the country;

(v) Providing more hotel-beds through India Tourism Development Corporation and by giving incentives in the private sector;

(vi) Developing Wild-life and shikar tourism;

(vii) Giving assistance to voluntary organisations, institutions and the private sector through grants and loans for improving and augmenting tourist facilities thereby encouraging investment in travel industry for building up the tourist infrastructure.

(viii) Developing a training programme for building up a cadre of trained and qualified personnel for manning tourist services;

(ix) Opening more promotional units abroad as well as intensifying publicity campaign in the existing units.

Special incentives offered to attract foreign tourists are:

(a) abolition of the visa fees on reciprocal basis with 14 countries and
(b) extension of the period of validity of the Temporary Landing Permit up to 7 days as against 72 hours previously. The question of further liberalising operation of charter flights, the extension of the lay-over period in case of transit charters and the maximum period in the case of destination charters is also being considered.

STATEHOOD FOR HIMACHAL PRADESH

*295. **SHRI RABI RAY:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission regarding grant of Statehood to Himachal Pradesh and the subsequent rejoinder of the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh to that effect; and

(b) if so, what is the attitude of Government to this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA):
(a) and (b). The statement of the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh reported recently in the Press was with reference to the report of the Study Team on Administration of Union Territories and NEFA submitted to the Administrative Reforms Commission. The recommendations contained in this report are intended to assist the Commission in formulating its recommendations to the Government. The Commission itself has not yet submitted any report on the subject to the Government.

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL MUSEUMS

*296. **SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY:** Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee had been appointed to go into the question of organization and