

are self-sufficient in farm products—at least in those farm products which are being exported from India. I would also like to know what arrangements are being made to develop export of farm products to foreign countries.

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : As I have already referred in the beginning, some of the farm products are being canalised, we are exporting them to some foreign countries through NAFED, STC and so on. Some of the products are non-canalised. As far as the measures that we have taken are concerned, I have already mentioned in the House in the beginning that cash incentives are being given, we are liberalising certain policies in terms of import licences to get certain kind of machinery by which we can improve the production and send them for the export market. So far as self-sufficiency is concerned, all the data are available with the Agriculture Ministry. But I can only say that in most of the farm products we are gaining self-sufficiency and possibly by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan in some of the specific products we shall have some surpluses. For instance, we expect in sugar we can do this.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to formulate a long term policy for export of farm produce on the lines the long term policy has been formulated for the industries? The reason is that first you give cash incentive and then impose ban on that. This cannot solve any problem. We frequently read in newspapers also about export of the farm produce. Alongwith that there should be exemption on land ceiling also. The Government is thinking of establishing seed farms. I want to know the details of the scheme. I also want to know the views of the Government on the need to formulate a long term policy.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you must formulate a long term policy and consult the Agriculture Ministry also. Subsequently,

horticulture and fruits should also be added to that. (Interruptions)

The question of cotton export and many other questions are also connected with this scheme.

[English]

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : I am taking it up with the Agriculture Ministry. We shall coordinate and so far as land ceiling is concerned, we will ask the Agriculture Ministry, Mango is a perennial crop like cashew and we shall coordinate with the Kerala Government.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mango crop, mango pulp, everything has to be done. It is quite an interesting question and all the Members are asking about this. You must coordinate with the Agriculture Ministry regarding these exports, and you need that money also. We need the foreign exchange.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I might inform the hon. Minister that if they utilise my constituency to export sweet mangoes, friendly relations also will grow.

MR. SPEAKER : Sweet exports !

The fruits are always sweet : the money too. They need it. Only .3 per cent you are processing. You have to do much more than that, Mr. Munsii.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : When will you taste Basumati rice ?

[Translation]

Facilities for Tourists in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

*371. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the facilities presently available to attract Tourists to Andaman and Nicobar

Islands ;

(b) the extent to which these facilities are planned to be increased ;

(c) whether arrangements have been made to distribute tourist literature in sufficient quantity to tourists in Port Blair and make available transport facility to tour the urban and rural areas regularly ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SYED): (a) to (d) A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) and (b) A total accommodation of 280 beds in various approved hotels and Government Guest Houses is available at Port Blair at present. Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned a 60-room Yatri Niwas, and is considering proposal for a 150 room hotel to be constructed and operated by India Tourism Development Corporation at Port Blair. The Department of Tourism has provided a 33 seater motor launch for cruise by tourists around Port Blair, and has sanctioned Rs. 4.50 lakhs for survey for constructing a jetty at Cinque Island. It is also proposed to augment surface transport and water sports facilities.

(c) and (d) For the development of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, an Action Plan has been prepared which provides for production of tourist literature, and other facilities in this group of Islands.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Indian Airlines operate two flights—one from Madras and the other from Calcutta -- to Port Blair. A large number of people go by ships also and many people want to shift there from Hongkong also. Therefore, Andaman and Nicobar should be developed for free trade. Keeping this in view, the tourists have started taking much interest and their flow has suddenly increa-

sed. I want to know from the hon. Minister when your proposed arrangement and programme for publicity will be finalised? I feel it would take a long time because so far even this is not known as to when it will be prepared and when it will be completed? why do you not get the available tourists' literature translated into Bengali, Tamil, English and Hindi? My personal experience is that this literature is not available in these languages. I had myself gone there and felt this difficulty. Your officers perhaps will not intimate you about it, but the material available there is not provided in the tourists' complex.

Secondly, I want to submit to the hon. Minister that there is no bus service for the lodge provided by you. Though tourist bus is there but it is erratic. Sometimes these buses go, sometimes these do not go. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister to get the entire matter investigated and would ask him whether he would get the things organised properly by sending good officers to the tourist office ?

[English]

MUFTI MOHD. SYED : We are trying to develop Andaman & Nicobar Islands as an independent destination. But we do not want to disturb the ecology and environment of these Islands. An Island Development Committee is constituted under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. We have taken some basic decisions in order to provide some infrastructure for tourist arrivals in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. It is a fact that from Bangkok to Andaman it is one hour's flight. There is no infrastructure facility available there. The opinion of environmentalists is that Port Blair should be developed as a supreme spot and centre of activity. So some basic infrastructure is to be developed. First the airstrip is to be expanded so that it can take bigger planes. As far as supply of water and power is concerned that has to be improved. ITDC is planning to construct a 150-room hotel there. We are going to start construction of a Yatri Niwas which will accommodate 200 tourists. We are trying to involve private sector as well. From this year onwards, we have a plan to develop Andaman & Nicobar Islands as a destination.

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : I want to know from the hon. Minister specifically, whatever publicity material is available in the tourist offices, whether he will kindly translate it into Tamil, Bangla and Hindi. Whatever facilities are available there, they are not properly being run. This is my experience. Will you kindly look into it ?

MUFTI MOHD. SYED : I agree with the hon. Member. Whatever material and brochures are there, we will translate them in other languages.

SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the Government convert Port Blair into a free port to attract the tourists ?

SHRI MOHD. SYED MUFTI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the present there is no possibility of making it a free port, because basic facilities are not available there. There are no lodging arrangements for the tourists who intend to go there. There is no facility for the tourists whether they go by ship or by air. When basic infrastructure is made available there.

[English]

Then there is a question of developing it as a free port.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are several tourist spots which are of historical importance.....

MR. SPEAKER : No, this question is not linked with the main question.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : These can be developed.

MR. SPEAKER : The complete answer will not come.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : No attention is paid by the Department of Tourism to them and these have not been developed. Even very famous places like Kurukshetra and Pandu-Pindara in district

Jind of Haryana where Pandavas spent the last days of exile have not been developed. Will the Government do anything about these places ?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sarfaraz Ali Khan, next question.

Drug traffic

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*372. **SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD :**

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether drug traffic is on the increase in the country ; and

(b) the steps Government propose to check drug traffic ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b) A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is increase of transit traffic in drugs from the Near and Middle East.

In addition to appropriate anti-smuggling measures taken in co ordination with the Central and State Government authorities concerned, close co-operation with the international agencies concerned and also with the drug law enforcement agencies of U.S.A., U.K. etc. is maintained to curb smuggling of drugs. The intelligence machinery has been geared up and the field formations remain vigilant to check the smuggling of drugs. The Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, which has come into force with effect from 14.11.1985, provides for deterrent punishments for drug trafficking offences. A new organisation called, "Narcotics Control Bureau" has been set up