

Closure of Nizam's Jewellery Exhibition

726. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in The Hindu, dated the 16th May, 2002, captioned "Jagmohan orders closure of Nizam's Jewels Exhibition";

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for closure of the exhibition;

(c) whether Government are aware of strong public feeling of the people of Andhra Pradesh in the matter which was communicated by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to the Prime Minister; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to honour the assurance of the Prime Minister in this regard given to the Chief Minister?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The exhibition was on display for over 6 months at Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad. The number of daily visitors had reduced considerably due to prolong display. The exhibition had started incurring heavy losses. Therefore, it was decided to close the exhibition.

(c) Some representations have been received.

(d) The State Government has been informed that there would be absolutely no difficulty in bringing the jewels back to Hyderabad for display as and when the required permanent arrangements are made with the funds to be made available by the State Government.

Foreign Tourist Traffic

727. DR. VIJAY MALLA :

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Foreign Tourist traffic has dropped by 15 to 20 per cent amounting to 2.3 per cent decline in foreign exchange earnings after September 11, terrorist attack;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry is working out to attract domestic tourists to consolidate the Indian tourism industry, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry of Tourism and Culture has allocated funds to improve Jain Temple Complexes of Karnataka have been included in the list; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN):

(a) There has been a decline of 17.3% and 11.6% in the estimated foreign tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings respectively during the period September 2001 to June 2002 as compared to the same period of the previous year.

(b) One of the basic principles on which the National Tourism Policy-2002 rests is to give due importance to domestic tourism with a view that it should be so designed that the infrastructure created under it serves as a backbone of international tourism in times to come. To facilitate growth in domestic tourism, initiatives such as development of integrated circuits and destinations by converging all resources and expertise for development of these circuits as world class destinations have been planned. Steps like reduction in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) taxes and duties for travelling to North East, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep have also been taken to promote tourism in these areas.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs.299.39 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Department of Culture to Archaeological Survey of India and Central Public Works Department for the developmental activities in and around various Jain Temples in Karnataka. Various Jain temples/complexes in Karnataka for which assistance has been given include Shri Digamber Jain Sahastrakuta Jinalaya, Arasikeri, Distt. Hassan, Adinath Jain Temple at Raibag, group of monuments at Panchkuta Basti, Kamboh halli, Distt. Mandya, Kunthanatha Basadi (Hampi), group of monuments at Sravanbelgola Hassan group of monuments at Moodabedri South Kanara, group of Jain Temples on Hema Kuta hills, Hampi, three Jain Temples in Mullur, Distt. Coorg, group of Jain monuments, Helebid, Hassan, Shantimatha Jaina Basti, Shimoga, Bandalika, Basti and inscriptions, Hoomcha Distt. Shimoga, Jain basti and Brahamadeva Pillar, Distt. Shimoga, Meolagi, Chaturmukha Basadi at Gerusoppa, Bahubali statue at Karkala, Kamla Basti Belgaum, Jaina Temple (Pattadakal), Chaturmukha Basadi at Gerusoppa.