

{21 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) subways are provided for safety of pedestrians crossing the highways passing through congested urban areas and to allow the through traffic to pass uninterrupted.

(c) Two number of subways on NH-I at KM. 274/1 (Khanna town) and KM. 265/500 (Gobindgarh town) in the State of Punjab are included in the Annual Plan 1999-2000 for sanction.

Complaint against Officers of ITDC

2119. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a complaint dated 6th August, 1999 from the All India ITDC Transport and ATT Workers Union against the prevailing corruption by former DG (Tourism), Director (Finance) and Vice President (ATT) of ITDC for appropriate action against the delinquent officials;

(b) whether the said complaint has since been got examined and action taken; and

(c) if so, what is the factual position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARTI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The complaint is under examination.

Measures to prevent crimes against Foreign Tourist

†2120. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign tourists are being fleeced cleverly at major tourist places in India by hotel owners, nursing home operators and taxi operators in connivance with the police;

(b) whether the country was put to shame before the World in the area of tourism because of terrorist and criminal activities in the country; and

(c) if so, the number of such incidents that have occurred during the last year and the attitude adopted by Government for the prevention of such activities.

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARTI): (a) Prevention of fleecing, harassment and cheating of foreign tourists is essentially a State subject. Some State Governments have framed Tourist Trade Acts to ensure safety and security of tourists.

(b) & (c) Ministry of Tourism regularly takes up the matter of criminal activities involving tourists with the concerned authorities in the Central and the State Governments to prevent occurrence of such instances.

Measures to increase Tourist Inflow

2121. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to increase the flow of tourists to India from different countries;

(b) if so, the details of different plans; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to increase the flow of tourist traffic from developed countries of Europe and America; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARTI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The plan includes the following steps which have been taken/proposed to be taken:

(i) Aggressive promotional measures to focus on cultural heritage as well as pilgrim tourism.

(ii) Extensive use of information technology measures to improve tourist information.

(iii) Use of direct promotional methods like mailers etc.

(iv) New strategies to bring about focus in the marketing campaign such as:

— Laying stress on new market segments like NRI/Ethnic etc.