

fairs and festivals. In addition the Government have a scheme under which incentives are given to entrepreneurs for setting up of hotels in rural areas of the country.

Decline in the number of foreign tourists visiting Maharashtra

217. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tourism inflows from other countries to India and particularly in the State of Maharashtra has dampened;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken by Government to boost the tourism; and

(c) the number of foreign tourists having visited Maharashtra during the year 1989 and 1990?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(a) The disturbances in some parts of the country and the adverse reporting of these events in the overseas markets, international developments like, Gulf crisis, restructuring of economy in Soviet Russia, etc. are the main reasons for the decline in tourist traffic. The steps taken by the Government for boosting tourism include diversification of tourism resources, development of new circuits, relaxation of rules relating to issue of visa and restricted area permits, etc., provision of money changing facilities in approved hotels, etc.

(b) Comparable figures of tourist arrivals in Maharashtra during 1990 are not available from the State Government. However, as per the disembarkation statistics available 488,681 foreign tourists disembarked at Bombay Airport till November 1990 as compared to 496,719 disembarkations during the same period in the previous year.

Creation of Heritage Hotels

218. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gov-

ernment have decided to create new type of Hotels - to be called 'Heritage Hotels' by converting Historical Buildings and Havelies into Hotels- and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINGH): (a) and (b) Government propose to include Heritage Hotels as a classification standard along with one to five star categories. The category is being introduced to cover running hotels that have been built in traditional Residences. This is being introduced in Rajasthan at the first instance in consultation with State Government and hotel owners, as a voluntary scheme

Loss due to Natural Calamities

219. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAM-RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States/Union territories affected by floods, heavy rains and land slides during the last three years;

(to) the estimated loss caused by the natural calamities to property, crops, human lives and number of persons rendered homeless during the above period in each State;

(c) the Central assistance sought by each State;

(d) whether Government have any proposal to face such types of natural calamities effectively; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHAND-BHAI SHAH): (a) and (b) States/ U.Ts. wise details of damage to life and properties due to floods, heavy rains and land slides, as reported by them, during the years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 are given at Annexure I, II and III respectively. [See Appendix CLVI, Annexure No 7]

(c) Statement indicating the amount of Central assistance sought by the affected States/U.Ts for meeting expenditure on relief operations in the areas affected by these calamities is given at Annexure IV.

[See Appendix CLVI, Annexure No. 7].

(d) & (e) Government of India have been taking number of measures for meeting the situation arising out of these calamities effectively. These measures are;

1. Improving flood forecasting and warning system.

2. Modifying the susceptibility to flooding through channel improvement, diversion of flood water, watershed management, flood plain zoning etc.

3. Developing alternative cropping strategies.

(b) Spreading the loss through credit support and insurance scheme.

(c) Modifying the floods through reservoirs, detention basins, embankments, coastal embankments, construction of sea walls etc.

(d) Preparation and implementation of Master Plan for flood control and management in each flood-prone basin.

(e) Afforestation programmes in the catchment areas etc.

Shortage of essential Fertilizers

220. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

4. whether the Nation is likely to face a shortage of three million tonnes of essential fertilisers during 1990-91; and

5. if so, the steps taken by Government to meet the needs of the farmers with regard to fertilisers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH);

DUR SINGH); Ca) & (b) No shortage of fertilisers is anticipated during the year 1990-91.

Observing the Year 1991 as 'Visit India Year'

221. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have decided to observe 1991 as 'Visit India Year'; and

(b) if so, the additional facilities proposed to be provided to the tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINGH); (a) Government is observing 1991 as India Tourism Year

(b) During the Tourism Year, new circuits and 46 fairs and festivals are being promoted. Some of the additional facilities proposed to be provided to tourists are as follows;

(a) Visa procedures have been simplified.

(b) Chapter policy has been liberalised

3. Money changing facilities will be available with hotels having restricted money changing licences.

4. Photography and video filming at monuments would be permitted.

Strike by Employees of Super Bazar, Delhi

222. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL;

KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA;

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL;

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the Super Bazar at Connaught Place and all its branches went on strike in the recent past;