

targetted tea productions during the recent past as follows:—

Year	Target	Annual Production	Percentage fall
1986-87	677	617	8.86
1987-88	702	678*	3.42
1988-89	734	683*	6.95
1989-90	760	547*	..
(April—Oct, 89)			

*Estimated.

It is evident from the above statistics that annual production of tea on an average is gradually increasing. However, it is still short against the targetted production due to unfavourable weather conditions etc. During the year 1989-90, a shortfall in tea production in all States i.e. in Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu of South India has been noticed as compared to the corresponding period last year. North Indian production of tea during the period is slightly more than last year.

(b) Though a marginal shortfall in the production has been noticed during the year 1989-90, it is unlikely to affect the domestic consumption. As regards foreign exchange earnings, during April—October, 1989, we have earned about Rs. 150 crores more than the corresponding period last year owing to higher value realisation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Tourist traffic

309. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to change priorities to attract tour-

ists in the country and that the earlier target of anticipated tourist arrival by 1990 has been scaled down;

(b) if so, what were the basis on which the tourist target was earlier fixed and what are the reasons for not achieving the anticipated target; and

(c) what are the basis on which the priorities to attract tourists in the country are proposed to be changed and the anticipated rise in the tourist traffic in the country as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to change the priorities to attract tourists to the country. However, a number of measures have been initiated by the Government to remove the infrastructural constraints by attracting private investment in the sector and to strengthen the overseas marketing efforts.

Keeping with the growth target of 7 per cent per annum projected by the Planning Commission, the target on foreign tourist arrivals for the year 1990 is 1.5 million.

(c) A target of 9 per cent annual growth in tourist traffic during Eighth Plan period is being fixed, keeping in view the available infrastructure.