

June, 1984 to the effect that the Chinese soldiers have hoisted their flags at two places on the Indian side of the International border between Chushul and Daula Begaldi in Ladakh and also constructed an underground defence system; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b) Government have seen the news report. There is, however, no truth in this report about the hoisting of flags in Indian territory by Chinese soldiers in the recent past. Government have no confirmed information about the construction of underground defence system by China, in the Chushul-Daula Begaldi areas.

Tourist traffic from West Asian and North African countries

883. SHRI KRISHNA NAND JOSHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state what special measures Government propose to take to encourage tourist traffic from West Asian and North African countries during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): The steps taken or to be taken to promote tourist traffic from West Asian and North African countries are:—

1. Stepping up of promotional efforts by Kuwait and Dubai Offices in the Region.
2. Preparation of additional tourist publicity material in Arabic language to suit the local requirements.
3. Participation in promotional fairs food festivals and exhibitions at Damascus, Amman, Baghdad, Cairo Dhahran and Abu Dhabi.

4. Increased advertising.

5. Promotion of special 'Family holiday concept'.

6. Joint promotion with other airlines such as Gulf and Kwait Airways Corporation.

7. Visit of high level promotional trade team in December 1984 at 4-5 locations in the Region.

8. Efforts to promote Indian ethnic traffic.

9. TV advertising.

10. 6—8 workshops being arranged for travel trade and press in the important tourist generating countries.

11. 8—10 important journalists to be invited for familiarisation trips to write about India's tourist attractions in the news papers/journals.

Renovation of Ashoka Hotel

884. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether the renovation done in Ashoka Hotel of ITDC during the last one year justifies the reserve created for development and depreciation claimed in the balance-sheet of the unit and what was the original two-phase renovation outlay of the Hotel and how much has been actually incurred upto date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): An expenditure of Rs. 478.18 lakhs was incurred by ITDC upto 30th June, 1984 against the plan outlay of Rs. 627 lakhs for NAM/CHOGM on the two-phase renovation of Ashoka Hotel.

The expenditure is justified as the total accumulation of depreciation and reserve in respect of Ashoka Hotel was of the order of Rs. 689.97 lakhs as on 31-3-83.