

State Government have accordingly been requested to declare tourism as an industry. In response to this, the State Governments of Meghalaya, Orissa, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh had already agreed to treat tourism as industry.

(b) and (c) The tourist arrivals excluding the visitors from Pakistan and Bangladesh during the last three years together with percentage change over the previous year are given below:

Year	Arrivals	% change
1982	860,178	0.8
1983	884,731	2.9
1984	852,503	(-) 3.6

The main reasons for the lower rate of growth in tourist arrivals during 1982 and 1983 as against the envisaged growth rate of 15 per cent were recessionary conditions in nearly all our major tourist generating countries, disturbances in some of our neighbouring countries and the withdrawal of the landing permit system for foreign tourists in 1982. Tourist traffic substantially picked up in the first half of 1984 registering an overall growth rate of 10.4 per cent. However, it declined substantially in the latter part of the year on account of adverse and exaggerated publicity by foreign media of the internal situation in some parts of the country and the introduction of stringent visa regulations.

Setting up of Helicopter Corporation of India

*32. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA:
SHRIMATI KRISHNA
KAUL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Helicopter Corporation of

India to meet the growing needs of the public and private sectors; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) It is proposed to set up a Helicopter Corporation with the primary objective of providing air transport support to the petroleum sector including exploration and inspection of pipelines in difficult terrains. The other objectives, *inter alia* are operations in hilly terrains, tourist charters, passenger transport from airports to central points in cities and relief operations during natural calamities. A committee has been constituted by Government to formulate a detailed project report. The Committee has been asked to submit its report by 15-3-1985.

Proposal to set up Atomic Power Plant in Kerala

*33. SHRI C. HARIDAS:
SHRI K. VASUDEVA
PANICKER:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to install an atomic power plant in Kerala;

(b) if so, by when work is likely to commence for the said plant, the expenditure involved and its likely period of completion and the location; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): (a) to (c) Sites in Kerala which form part of the Southern Electricity Region have been assessed by the Site Selection Committee for setting up nuclear

power Stations. Its report is under consideration of the Government.

Visit of Foreigner Tourists in India

*34. DR. SHANTI G. PATEL:
SHRI GAYA CHAND
BHUYAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any fall in the foreign tourists visiting India;

(b) if so, what are the details of the foreign tourists during the last three years year-wise and the countries of their origin;

(c) whether this has affected the business of the ITDC hotels in the country; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to improve the foreign tourist traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) Foreign tourist arrivals, excluding the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh, during the last 3 years are as given below:

Year	Tourist arrivals
1982	860,178
1983	884,731
1984	852,503

In 1984 there was a marginal decline of 3.6 per cent. On the basis of the data available for the year 1983 the first ten countries which contributed about 62 per cent of the arrivals during that year were United Kingdom (15.5 per cent), United States of America (10.8 per cent), Sri Lanka

(9.2 per cent), Federal Republic of Germany (5.8 per cent), France (5.7 per cent), Canada (3.4 per cent), Italy (3.2 per cent), Japan (3.0 per cent), Malaysia (2.9 per cent) and Saudi Arabia (2.8 per cent).

(c) The decline of the tourist arrivals in 1984 affected the business of I.T.D.C. hotels.

(d) The steps being taken by the Government to improve the foreign tourist traffic include vigorous publicity and promotional efforts abroad to counteract the adverse media coverage in recent months, re-orientation of overseas publicity with emphasis on consumers' advertising, stepping up of public relations with tour operators and travel agents abroad, inviting selected representatives from the media and travel trade abroad to visit India, participation in international travel fairs and exhibitions, development of infrastructure facilities at major tourist centres and improvement in the facilitations at the airport. The steps taken by I.T.D.C. include marketing and reservation agreement with international hotel chains and airlines, introduction of incentive schemes and of packages for attracting different types of tourists.

Question Number 35

Associations/Organisations receiving Foreign Contributions

*36. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI L. GANESAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1940 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th March, 1984 and state:

(a) whether the detailed information relating to foreign contributions received by the various associations/organisations during the last three years has since been computerised

(b) if so, the amount of foreign contributions received during the same period year-wise; and