

**Exploration of ruby and ruby-corundum in villages near Tumkur in Karnataka**

\*333. SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:  
DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:  
SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH  
PANDE:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had deputed an experts team to explore the possibility of finding ruby and ruby-corundum in villages near Tumkur in Karnataka; and

(b) whether Government are aware of illegal mining of ruby by traders and land-owners in these villages and if so, what action has been taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Unauthorised mining of Ruby Corundum had been reported some-time back in Pavugada, Madhugiri and Ortagera Talukas. The State Department of Mines and Geology, assisted by the Revenue and Police authorities, took appropriate measures to stop this. At present, no illegal mining is reported from this area.

**Tourist visiting India**

\*334. SHRIMATI RODA MISTRY:  
SHRI SAWAISINGH  
SISODIA:  
SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourists expected to visit India by the end of the current year;

(b) whether the hotel accommodation in places of tourist interest is sufficient to meet the tourist traffic; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) About 800,000 tourists are expected to visit India by the end of the current year.

(b) and (c) Whereas at some metropolitan centres such as Bombay, Delhi and Madras, the hotel accommodation position becomes acute during the peak tourist season, at other tourist centres like Calcutta, Agra, Jaipur, Aurangabad etc., there is more than adequate accommodation even during the peak season. Every effort is being made to increase hotel accommodation wherever necessary, and to diversify tourist attractions so as to ensure more even distribution of tourist traffic throughout the country.

कोका, काजू और रबड़ का आयात

335. श्री सी० हरिदास :

श्री नामेश्वर प्रसाद शाही :

श्री ओ० जे० जोसेफ :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या केरल के सर्वदलीय शिष्ट मंडल से कोई अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुआ है जिसमें केन्द्रीय सरकार से कोका, रबड़ और काजू का आयात न करने का अनुरोध किया गया है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार ने केरल सरकार और केरल के शिष्ट मंडलों को श्वासन दिया था कि इन मर्दों का आयात नहीं किया जायेगा ;