

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK: I may inform the hon. Member that it is not possible for the Central Department of Tourism to take over all the places of tourist importance. We have taken over places which have the potential for attracting international tourists. For that purpose, definitely, in Orissa there is the triangle, Bhubaneswar, Puri and Konarak. Department of Tourism has already spent some money in the past as provided in the Five-Year Plans. So far as the development of these three places is concerned, for the information of the hon. Member I may state that expansion of a travellers' lodge at Bhubaneswar at a cost of Rs. 40 lakhs is already going on and I think the work will be over by the end of this year. About Konarak and Puri, I have already stated. About construction of a hotel at Puri, I had a talk with the Governor of Orissa during my last visit and there was a proposal that the old Raj Bhavan at Puri will be transferred to ITDC and after renovation, it will be run as a hotel by the ITDC. We are still in correspondence with the State Government and the State Government seems not inclined to hand over the old Raj Bhavan to ITDC.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: He did not say anything about Chilka. He has not even gone there.

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK: So far as Chilka is concerned, it has not yet been able to attract international tourism. Even then, we have given the State Government a motor launch costing Rs. one lakh or so. We have already given this to the State Government.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: That was a decade back.

SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY: Sir, development of tourist centres all over the country is a very important aspect in the development of tourism and in earning foreign exchange and

other benefits. In this connection, I would like to know one thing. The Andhra Pradesh Government have already sent several proposals and the same reply is given that there are no funds. Have the Government studied and identified the important tourist centres all over the country and have they planned to develop them by giving at least 50 per cent rebate to the States?

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK: Sir, so far as surveying places of international tourist attraction is concerned, we have asked the State Governments to give a perspective plan in respect of their own States. We have received them and these are under examination. No sooner we take up this matter with the Planning Commission, than all the plans submitted by the States will be taken into consideration, and, according to their importance, international, national or local, the Central Tourism Department will take necessary action.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS QUESTIONS

Press Statement by Shri G. D. Birla on Prospects of Foreign Investment in the country

†*334. **SHRI DAYANAND SAHAYA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a press interview reportedly given by Shri G.D. Birla which appeared in the *Indian Express* of the 10th July 1978 to the effect that prospects of foreign investment in the country are bleak; and

(b) if so, what is the position and what action government propose to take in the matter?

†Previously Starred Question 224, transferred from the 27th July, 1978.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
(SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government do not share the views expressed by Shri G. D. Birla.

Offices of Public Sector Undertakings

*336. SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the public sector undertakings have housed their offices in more than one place in the same city involving avoidable overheads;

(b) whether Government have initiated action with a view to minimising such overheads; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
(SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Some of the Public Enterprises, though not most of them, have housed their offices in more than one place in the same city, mainly due to operational requirements & other compulsion. Parliamentary Committee on Public Undertakings in their report No. 340 have deprecated the practice of housing offices of some public undertakings in more than one place in the same city which involves avoidable overheads, and the Committee have also made certain recommendations to obviate such avoidable expenditure.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Action has been taken to put up major office complexes in Delhi for meeting the office accommodation requirements of various Public Enterprises. The intention is not only to house the various offices of the individual public enterprise in the same building, but also house the offices of various public enterprises, to the ex-

tent feasible, in the same building. Further, the various recommendations made by the Parliamentary Committee in their Report No. 340 are being examined in consultation with the administrative Ministries.

Unearthing of Foreign Exchange Rackets

*338. SHRIMATI SAROJ KHAPARDE;

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA;

DR. V. P. DUTT;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign exchange rackets unearthed in the country during the last three years;

(b) the names and other particulars of the persons arrested in this connection; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) to (c) During the period from 1-7-75 to 30-6-78 a total number of 237 persons were detained under COFEPOSA for racketeering in Foreign Exchange. Apart from these as many as 116 persons were arrested under Section 35 of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act 1973 during the same period, for different violations of provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act.

Action against some of the persons detained/arrested has been finalised and penalties had been imposed on those found guilty of contravention of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. In addition, confiscation of currencies, both Indian and Foreign, and/or repatriation of foreign exchange into India, as the case may be, was ordered in some