

Offices of Tourism Department in other countries

*207. SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR :
SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN :
SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI :
SHRI JAGAN NATH
BHARDWAJ :
SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of offices of the Department of Tourism are functioning in other countries;

(b) whether any survey has been made to assess the utility of these offices *vis-a-vis* the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) whether Government propose to re-organise the network of tourist offices abroad in the light of experience gained ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Although no formal Cost Benefit Survey of individual Tourist Offices overseas has been made, the Department of Tourism sponsored an in depth study of cost benefit ratio of tourism in India through the National Council of Applied Economic Research. The cost of promoting tourism to India in terms of total outflow of foreign exchange including expenditure on tourist offices in 1972-73 was 5.1 per cent of the gross income from tourists in that year. The expenditure on tourist offices overseas was about 1/3rd of 5.1 per cent of gross tourist earnings from tourism according to the findings of this independent organisation. In other words, the expenditure was very small compared to the gross income from tourism.

(c) The Government follows a pragmatic policy in respect of location of tourist offices overseas. The Department of Tourism have opened new tourist offices where potential is greater and have closed down offices where potential is found to be limited.

Prediction of earth-quake in the North Eastern region

*208. SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURA GOHAIN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of research conducted in the Jorhat Regional Research Laboratory recently it has been predicted that an earth-quake of great intensity would occur in the North Eastern region of India between 1977 and 1980; and

(b) if so, what precautionary measures Government propose to take to minimise the impact thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK) : (a) and (b) It is a fact that according to a newspaper report, the Jorhat Regional Research Laboratory, which is under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, have predicted that the North-eastern region of India may experience a major earthquake between 1977 and 1980 and urgent enquiries have been made from the Director of Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat to intimate the basis for the reported prediction. It may be mentioned here that in the present state of knowledge, the prediction of earthquakes is not a proven technique.

North East India is a seismic zone and guidelines already exist for allowing appropriate tolerance for seismic activity in design of structures in this Region. Further India Meteorological Department have already six Seismological Observatories in this Region, and have a programme of augmenting them in future; this network would increase the monitoring capability for minor earth tremors, which in turn could lead to better prediction and warning capability in future.

Insect menace at the Delhi Airport

*209. SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHAUDHURY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to, state :