

Trade the Development Authority and the Handlooms & Handicrafts Export Corporation.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Shortage of Hotels for Foreign Tourists

*9. SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of hotel accommodation for foreign tourists in the country ;

(b) if so, what is the estimated requirement of additional hotels, rooms and what are the plans to meet this shortage; and

(c) what will be the share of (i) the public sector and (ii) the private sector in providing this additional accommodation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURSHOTTAM KAUSHIK) : (a) There is shortage of hotel accommodation of standard suitable for foreign tourists at many places of tourist importance in the the country.

(b) It is estimated that about 10,700 additional rooms will be required by the end of the Fifth Plan period. As a step towards meeting this shortage, hotels are being set up in public sector as well as in the private sector which is encouraged to set up more hotels by means of various incentives offered in the form of fiscal reliefs, financial assistance in the form of institutional loans, priority consideration for essential requirements, etc.

(c) Subjects to the availability of funds and approval of the projects, the India Tourism Development Corporation expect to add 605 rooms during the remaining period of the Fifth Plan. The Hotel Corporation of India also has plans to set up hotels at Juhu (Bombay) and Srinagar.

In the private sector, the Department of Tourism has approved 74 hotels projects from the point of view of their suitability for foreign tourists. These are at various stages of construction and when completed, these are expected to yield 5,937 rooms.

* 14. [With drawn.]

Nagpur-Calcutta air service

*15. SHRI S.W. DHABE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the people of Nagpur for resumption of air service from Nagpur to Calcutta;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon; and

(c) what is the period for which the Nagpur-Calcutta air service was in operation and when was it discontinued ?

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

(b) Traffic on the air service operated by Indian Airlines on the Calcutta-Nagpur Sector was low and the Corporation found it uneconomical to continue this service. Indian Airlines have, therefore, discontinued the airlink between Nagpur and Calcutta and have no plans to restore it in the near future.

(c) The Nagpur-Calcutta airlink was provided initially on the night air mail system and on the discontinuation of that system, the jet service operating on the route Bombay/Calcutta made a halt at Nagpur thus continuing the Nagpur-Calcutta airlink. This was discontinued in October, 1976.

Cotton price :

*16. SHRI HARISH DEO MALAVIYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :