

16. Holiday resorts at Gulmarg, Kovalam, and Goa are being created for destination traffic.

17. Major improvements are being made to our four international airports

18. Wild-life tourism is being developed to attract wild life enthusiasts from abroad.

19. Financial assistance is given to voluntary organisations/institutions and other private parties in the tourist trade by way of grants and loans for improving and augmenting tourist facilities.

20. Existing tourist facilities at important tourist centres are being improved wherever possible.

21. Places of tourist interest including archaeological monuments are being developed.

22. A training programme for building up a cadre of trained and qualified personnel for manning tourist services is being organised.

23. Special point to point fare, have also been introduced on some international sectors of Air India e.g. New York—Bombay/Delhi, Paris—Delhi/Bombay/Calcutta etc., within the IATA framework. Continuous efforts are being made through Air India to introduce attractive promotional fares on as many sectors as possible to reduce the initial cost of travel to India and to face the stiff competition from other tourist destinations.

World Bank assistance for digging wells in Maharashtra

1385. SHRI K. N. DHULAP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra Government have requested the Central Government to seek assistance from the World Bank to meet the cost of digging wells in the State; and

(b) if so, what decision Central Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) A Credit of \$ 30 million (about Rs. 24 crores) has been obtained by the Government of India from the International Development Association

for the Maharashtra Agricultural Credit Project. The Project is part of the lending programme for agricultural development in Maharashtra. It consists, among other items, of provision of loans for minor irrigation including tube-wells dug-wells and lift irrigation schemes, and the installation of pump sets on existing wells.

Buffer stock of cotton

1386. SHRI K. N. DHULAP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the Cotton Corporation of India to build a buffer stock of cotton out of the purchases made during the current year; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the purpose to be achieved as a result thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Ban on export of yarn

1387. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from the decentralised sector of the textile industry requesting for a total ban on the export of yarn; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government do not favour the idea of completely stopping export of yarn. Some exports have to be allowed to service bilateral trade commitments and cater to the market for high unit value industrial yarns. However, export of cotton yarn is being regulated through the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council and Government are keeping a close watch on the domestic yarn availability situation.