

TOURISM TRAINING INSTITUTE

473. SHRI N.R. MUNISWAMY :
SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION/पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to set up a "Top class tourism training institute; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the time and place of its establishment and the estimated cost thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION/पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under careful consideration.

TOURIST FACILITIES AT KAZIRANGA WILD LIFE SANCTUARY

474. SHRI GOLAP BARBORA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION/पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kaziranga Wild Life Sanctuary in Assam which is famous for its one-horned rhinoceros, has earned about Rs. 10 lakhs in foreign exchange during last three years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to the lack of proper accommodation and transport facilities more than 50 per cent of the tourists intending to visit Kaziranga every year have to be sent back;

(c) whether it is also fact that the assurance given by the Central Government about two years ago to provide a tourist bungalow at Kaziranga and two mini-buses is yet to be fulfilled; and

(d) whether the Centre propose to respond sympathetically to the resolution adopted by the Assam Assembly in 1968 urging the Central Government to declare Kaziranga a National Park ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION/पर्यटन और नागर विमानन मंत्री (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) Since foreign exchange earnings are computed on an all-India basis, and not State-wise or place-wise, specific information relating to earnings of foreign exchange through tourists visiting Kaziranga wild life sanctuary is not available.

(b) There is a shortage of accommodation and transport, but steps are being taken to augment them.

(c) During the Fourth Plan period it is proposed to provide additional accommodation and two mini-buses at Kaziranga. The plans for the former are under preparation and the mini-buses have been ordered.

(d) The Department of Tourism would welcome the declaration of Kaziranga as a national park by the State Legislature, which is the competent authority for this purpose.

ADDITIONAL EXCISE DUTY LEVIED ON ASSAM TEA

475. SHRI GOLAP BARBORA : Will the Minister of FINANCE/वित्त मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's imposition of an additional excise duty of 50 paise per kilogram on Assam tea against only 10 paise per kilogram on North Bengal tea has been considered to be unjust both by the tea industry and the Government of Assam;

(b) whether it is a fact that the entire loss arising out of the abolition of export duty and even the amount of subsidies provided to the tea industry has been made up by the Government of India by levying heavy excise duty on Assam tea; and

(c) whether Government propose to withdraw this additional levy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE/वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI K.R. GANESH) : (a)

It is not correct to say that there was an imposition of additional excise duty of 50 paise per kg. on Assam tea against 10 paise per kg. on North Bengal tea. The rates of excise duty leviable on loose tea are fixed with reference to the grouping of tea producing areas all over India into five zones, and not with reference to the States. The tea producing areas in Assam fall in the three Zones of Zone I, II and V. In the Budget proposals of 1970 no increase was made in the rate of Excise duty on tea produced in Zone I; however, in the same Budget proposals, duty increases were made of 10 paise per kilogram on tea produced in Zone II, and of 50 paise per kg. on tea produced in Zone V. The tea growing areas in North Bengal fall in Zones I, II and III. Thus in the case of North Bengal also there was no increase in the duty on loose tea produced in Zone I, and an increase of 10 paise per kg. in excise