

WORKING HOURS IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

358. SARDAR RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 581 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th August, 1967 and state:

(a) whether a final decision has since been taken to revise the working hours of the Central Government Offices ;

(b) whether another Saturday every month, in addition to the existing one is likely to be declared a holiday; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The pre-emergency working hours are being restored from the 1st December, 1967.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

PROMOTION OF TOURISM

359. SARDAR RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether he recently visited Europe ;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been chalked out to attract tourists from the countries in that area ; and if so, what are the details of the scheme ; and

(c) whether there is any possibility of achieving the target of receiving half a million tourists by 1970 ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The trip gave me the opportunity to study at first hand some of the problems of tourism promotion abroad, and helped me get a clear perspective of our own plans for such promotion. Several new ideas for attracting more foreign tourists and projecting a new image of India

abroad have developed and are being worked out. We hope to achieve the target of half a million tourists by the end of the Fourth Plan if facilities such as accommodation, internal transportation etc. can be developed satisfactorily. All efforts are being made to strengthen and expand this tourist infrastructure so as to be able to receive the expected increase over the next few years.

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE POSTED IN WEST BENGAL

360. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) how many battalions of Central Reserve Police were stationed in West Bengal during the first week of October;

(b) how many were requisitioned by the State Government; and

(c) what was the purpose of this requisition and whether they have been withdrawn now ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) to (c) Some armed police contingents were sent to West Bengal at the instance of the State Government who wanted their own armed police force to be supplemented in order to cope with possible disturbances to law and order.

It is not in the public interest to disclose the number of such contingents.

TERMINATION OF FLIGHTS BETWEEN INDIA AND THAILAND

361. DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR:

SARDAR NARINDAR SINGH BRAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Thailand have decided to terminate the flights of their national airlines companies between the two countries with effect from the 1st November, 1967 ; and