

ment and publicity through press, radio, television etc. during the year 1962-63, which included a sum of Rs. 8.75 lakhs on payments under Transportation Service Contract.

RESTORATION OF RAILWAY TRAVEL CONCESSIONS

*132. SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAY: be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have recently been made on behalf of cultural troupes for restoration of the Railway travel concessions; and

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter was reviewed and it was decided to restore concession only in respect of luggage offered for booking by the cultural troupes.

BUFFER STOCKS

*133. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the commodities in which Government propose to create buffer stocks; and

(b) whether any steps have been taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) The Ministry of Food and Agriculture propose to build up buffer stocks of rice, wheat and sugar.

(b) Yes, Sir. So far as rice and wheat are concerned the buffer stocks are already in the process of being built up and storage is being constructed on that basis. So far as sugar is concerned, Government's programme

of increased production in 1963-64 includes a provision for the commencement of build-up of a buffer stock.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS FROM TOURISM

*134. { SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR:
SHRI S. C. DEB:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an increase in the foreign tourist traffic in the country recently but the earnings therefrom are on the decrease; and

(b) if so, what is the reason therefor and what steps are being taken by Government to increase foreign exchange earnings from tourism?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Earnings of foreign exchange from tourism, as estimated by the Reserve Bank, had been increasing from year to year up to the end of 1960, but the rate of increase in earnings was not proportionate to the rate of increase in the number of tourists. Furthermore, the Reserve Bank's estimates of earnings for 1961 and 1962 (calendar years) have shown an actual decline. There was also some decline in the number of tourists in 1962.

(b) It is not easy to ascertain with any precision the causes of decline in earnings from tourists. In the first place, the earnings from tourists have to be estimated on the basis of sample surveys of remittances and voluntary information obtained from tourists and there is always room for some