

**Tourist promotion**

494. DR. DATTA SAMANT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of tourists who visited India in the year 1986 and the total amount of national income for this year; and

(b) the efforts Government are making to attract more tourists in order to get more national income ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SYED) : (a) The total foreign tourist traffic to India during 1986 was 1451,076 including the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh. The estimated foreign exchange earning from these tourists is likely to be over Rs. 1700 crores.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to increase the foreign tourist traffic to India include vigorous publicity campaigns with emphasis on consumer advertising, stepping up of public relations with overseas media agencies, tour operators and travel agencies, promotion of special interest tourism and marketing India in segments, launching of off-season schemes and promotional schemes like "Affordable India" and "India on the House", development of infrastructural facilities and transport systems, including charter traffic, etc.

[Translation]

**Enquiry into hijacking of Pan Am aircraft**

495. SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether enquiry in regard to the hijacking of PAN AM aircraft to Pakistan resulting in loss of lives of several citizens of Indian origin was conducted by the Government of Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Pakistan is yet to furnish to us the report of the enquiry set up by it in this matter.

[English]

**Air link between tourist centres in Kerala**

496. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for having chartered flight connection between the various tourist centres in Kerala for international passengers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SYED) : (a) and (b) Trivandrum in Kerala has been approved as a destination for charters. However, no proposal has been received so far for operating charters to this destination.

**India's exports vis-a-vis some Asian countries**

497. SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the increase in our exports during last 3 years; and

(b) how does it compare with the increase in exports of some of the countries in the Asian region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) According to data available from DGCI & S, India's overall exports in terms of Indian Rupees