

ITDC Hotel at Kovalam incurring Losses

4371. DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India Tourism Development Corporation's hotel at Kovalam has incurred consistent losses;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken to prevent these losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION: (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a): Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reasons for these losses have been low occupancy due to seasonal tourist traffic; low room tariff; high food & beverage and other overhead expenses; high repair maintenance and upkeep costs.

(c) Room tariff has been increased, marketing efforts intensified and measures to control and reduce the expenditure on food cost, repairs and maintenance, upkeep facilities, etc. are being adopted.

Memorandum from federation of biscuit manufacturers of India (FBMI) to abolish excise duty on Biscuits

4372. DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have received a memorandum from the Federation of Biscuit Manufacturers of India (FBMI) to abolish excise duty on biscuits because biscuit has "become a common man's food";

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that the relief in this excise duty will benefit the consumers;

(c) if so, whether Government have any proposal to abolish this excise duty; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It cannot be said with certainty whether consumers will be benefited in the event of abolition of excise duty on biscuits.

(c) and (d). Government have no proposal at present to abolish excise duty on biscuits.

News-Item captioned "U.S. Exim Bank to India Recue"

4373. SHRI HARINATHA MISRA: SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "U.S. Exim Bank to India's resue in the "Economic Times". dated 19 February, 1982;

(b) if so, whether in a bid to reach out for alternative sources of funding India may set its sights on the United States Export-Import Bank;

(c) whether the Exim Bank is to sanction \$ 25 million loan for ONGC in March when the next board meeting will take place;

(d) whether three tied loans are to be sanctioned which carry an annual interest of only 8.75 per cent; and

(e) whether the Exim Bank sources are hopeful for negotiating more such loans, particularly with Indian public sector undertakings for purchasing large capital equipment from the US; if so, Government's re-

action to each one of the above-mentioned points?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government's policy is to tap all sources of concessional finance, including U.S. Exim Bank, wherever it is advantageous.

(c) ONGC has not made any formal application to Exim Bank for a new loan of \$ 25 million.

(d) Yes, Sir. Exim Bank have recently approved three Sub-loans, totalling about US \$ 20.9 million, under Exim Line of Credit of \$21.25 million to State Bank of India for which agreement was signed in September, 1981. This line of credit carries interest at the rate of 8.75 per annum.

(e) Government have not received any official indication from Exim Bank in this regard

News-Item captioned 'No Tourist Booking for Asiad Yet'

4374. SHRI HARINATHA MISRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item under the caption: 'No tourist booking for Asiad yet' as published in the Indian Express dated the 23rd February, 1982; and

(b) the arrangements that are likely to be completed, particularly so far as hotel accommodation is concerned, for the—

(i) participants and allied personnel;

(ii) Visitors both foreigners and Indian;

(iii) the total number of visitors both foreigners and Indians, who are likely to witness the Asian Games?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Participants are being housed in the Asian Games Village (Siri Fort area) and the technical personnel in Sheikh Sarai Guest House.

(ii) Visitors, both foreigners and Indians, will be accommodated in hotels existing and new, as well as certain guest houses. Private guest house arrangements are being made by the Delhi Tourism Development Corporation for paying guest accommodation.

(iii) It is difficult to assess at present.

News Item captioned "wool Exports can Exceed Rs. 200 crore"

4375. SHRI HARINATHA MISRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned: Wool exports can exceed Rs. 200 crores as published in Economic Times dated 23rd February, 1982;

(b) if so, whether the industry's export target for the current year has been fixed at Rs. 175 crores;

(c) whether according to the Secretary, Wool and Woollen export Promotion Council (WWEPC), wool and wollen goods export can easily cross Rs. 200 crores mark per year if Union Government extend necessary support;

(d) What are different items of "necessary support" suggested by the Secretary, WWEPC and the reaction of Government to each of the suggestions put forward by him; and