

Tourists in Amritsar

5950. S. ATINDER PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of domestic and foreign pilgrims and tourists visiting Amritsar in Punjab every year;

(b) whether Government propose to develop Amritsar as an international centre of pilgrimage and tourism in view of its glorious historical heritage;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) As per the information available from the State Government, the number of domestic and foreign tourists who visited Amritsar during 1989 were 17,841 and 8,404 respectively.

(b) and (c). Amritsar is already an international tourist centre and its being given publicity in the overseas markets.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Ratification of UN Convention against Trafficking in drugs and Psychotropic substances

5951. SHRI PARASRAM
BHARDWAJ:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to ratify the U.N. Convention against illicit

traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances adopted at the U.N. Conference of plenipotentiaries on 19 December, 1989; and

(b) if so, the details about cooperation extended by India so far as the implementation of its provisions is concerned?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. India's instrument of accession to the U.N. Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988 has been deposited with the U.N. Secretary-General on 27.3.1990. Necessary provisions relating to major Articles of the said Convention had already been incorporated in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

India is extending full co-operation to the various countries in the fight against drug trafficking and has bilateral arrangements with Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, United States of America and Mauritius to review matters relating to illicit drug trafficking. Drug liaison officers from United Kingdom, Canada, United States of America and West Germany have been allowed to be posted in India as envisaged under Article 9 of the aforesaid Convention.

Waiving off Loans of Fisherfolk

5952. SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to waive off loans upto ten thousand rupees only for the small fisherfolk as is being done for the farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). The

details of the scheme for providing debt relief to various categories of persons are being formulated in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Central Pension Accounting Office

5953. SHRI NARSINGRAO SURYA-WANSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO) in New Delhi to centralise and monitor pension payments to Central Civil Pensioners; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Central Pension Accounting Office has been set up in New Delhi. It has started functioning since 1st January, 1990.

(b) To eliminate delays in payment of pensions to Central Civil Pensioners simplified scheme for payments through Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO) has been introduced since 1st January, 1990. Under this scheme, the pension payment orders are received directly by the Central Pension Accounting Office. The CPAO authorises drawal of pension directly through nominated public sector banks under intimation to the pensioners concerned. The scheme is being closely monitored by the CPAO.

The CPAO functions under the overall supervision of the Controller General of Accounts, the Ministry of Finance.

Special Leave Petitions pending in Supreme Court

5954. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be

pleased to state:

(a) the number of Special Leave Petitions on service matters pending in the Supreme Court;

(b) the steps taken to get these Special Leave Petitions finalised expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b). The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

[*Translation*]

Export Oriented Industries in Punjab

5955. S. ATINDER PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop a hundred per cent export oriented industrial estate in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details in regard thereto;

(c) the States where export oriented industrial estates have been developed and the number thereof; and

(d) the Facilities being provided these estates by Union Government and State Government respectively?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Six export processing zones have been developed in the states of Gujarat (Kandla), Maharashtra (Bombay), Uttar Pradesh (Noida), West Bengal (Falta-Near