

Decline in Foreign Tourist Traffic

*75. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foreign tourist traffic has been showing a declining trend during the last two years and the current years ;

(b) if so, the number of foreign tourists who visited India during 1983 and 1984 and the number expected during the year 1985, year-wise ; and

(c) the reasons for the decline in tourist traffic and the measures being taken to increase it ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) to (c). The tourist arrivals excluding the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh during the last few years starting with 1981 are as follows :—

Year	Tourist arrivals
1981	853,148
1982	860,178
1983	884,731
1984	852,503

2. Due to disturbed conditions in some parts of the country as also in some neighbouring countries and the adverse publicity abroad, there was a marginal decrease in tourist arrivals in 1984. However, measures to counteract the adverse publicity are being taken by the Department as well as our missions abroad and it is expected that the situation will improve during 1985.

3. To create greater awareness of India's tourism potential in the principal tourist generating markets the Department invites representatives from media abroad to visit India and produce films, write-up in magazines and newspapers. Besides this, the Department

also invites selected travel agents and tour operators on familiarisation tours to various places of tourist interest in India so that they may develop suitable itineraries for marketing to the prospective tourists.

4. The Government has also decided to allow tourist charters to come to India and land at the 4 international airports, namely Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta as also Goa and Trivandrum. This, it is expected, will attract more budget tourists to visit India.

Installation of Son-et-Lumiere at Konark

*76. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Orissa had requested his Ministry to accord permission for installation of Son-et-lumiere at Konark ;

(b) if so, whether permission has been granted ;

(c) if not, reasons thereof ; and

(d) whether Government propose to reconsider the request ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI (RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir

(c) Archaeological Survey of India and its expert bodies, consider granting of permission for Sound and Light show in Centrally protected monuments which are secular in nature. Such programmes should have thematically authentic succession of events connected with the monument. The such Temple at Konark it a monument of religious character and does not have succession of events that can be projected in the Sound and Light programme to justify the grant of permission. In addition, the condition of the monument is so fragile, that it needs conservation, before a