

(b) the amount spent on development of these places of pilgrimage during each of the last three years, separately; and

(c) if no amount has been spent on the said work, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Department of Tourism, Government of India had signed two soft term loan agreements with OECF, Japan for the development of infrastructure in the Buddhist circuit:

- (i) 7.76 Billion Japanese Yen for infrastructural development along identified Buddhist circuits in U.P. and Bihar.
- (ii) 3.75 Billion Japanese Yen for conservation and tourism development plan for Ajanta and Ellora in Maharashtra.

The OECF loan is not available in advance. The implementing agencies have to first incur expenditure from their own resources and then claim reimbursement from OECF. Rs. 72.05 crores approx. has been reimbursed by OECF for work done on various components such as upgradation and strengthening of national and state highways, landscaping around the monuments, setting up of wayside amenities and augmentation of electricity and water supply in U.P. and Bihar.

As regards the project in Maharashtra, the Govt. of Maharashtra and ASI have spent Rs.5.44 crores and Rs.0.21 crores for development and conservation work respectively. The National Airport Authority has also spent Rs.7.82 crores for the expansion of Aurangabad Airport under the Ajanta and Ellora Project. These expenditures are to be claimed from the OECF as reimbursement.

Child Labour

4199. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the international non-Government organisation has offered to help the abolishing child labour from the carpet industry and offer financial support for schooling and socio-economic development programmes in the carpet producing areas;

(b) whether any concrete measures in this regard have been worked out; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Textiles, no offer has been received from any international non-Government organisation to help in abolishing child labour from the carpet industry in the country.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Smuggling of Uranium

4200. SHRI PROBINA DEKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the smuggling of Uranium from Meghalaya;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry made in this regard; and

(c) if so, the finding thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Exploitation of Workers

4201. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the exploitation of labour is rampant in Government-aided voluntary organisations;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these organisations do not give prescribed pay scales to their employees and even sack them arbitrarily; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) Wherever enterprises run by voluntary organisations are covered by the Industrial Disputes Act or other labour laws, complaints regarding their violating are to be taken up with the "Appropriate Governments". So, no separate information as such is maintained at the Government level in regard to this matter.

Financial Assistance for Tourism to Kerala

4202. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH :

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposals for the financial assistance from the Union Government to promote Tourism in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon;

(c) the details of the pending proposals alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) whether total amount of the sanctioned projects has been released for the development of tourism during 1995-96 in Kerala; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?