

tion is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Industries in North Eastern States

393. SHRI JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of industries set up by NRI/Foreign investors since 'Tax Holiday' was declared by the Government in the North Eastern States, state wise ; and

(b) the quantum of money lost by the Government on account of such concessions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) Government has accorded approval to (one) proposal for setting up industry in the State of Assam with foreign investment after the Budget announcement of Tax Holiday by the Government in the North Eastern States.

(b) No such data are available in the Central Board of Direct Taxes, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi.

Passenger Amenities

394. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor amenities for passengers on different Railway Stations and also in the trains ;

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the amenities for passengers ; and

(c) the details of the plan drawn up for the purposes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) A few instances of inadequate of amenities have come to notice.

(b) and (c). It is always the endeavour of Railways to provide amenities as per prescribed norms. Provision and upgradation of amenities/facilities at stations and in trains is a continuous process. Some of the steps taken include increase in allocation of funds for Passenger Amenities from Rs. 67.26 crores in 1994-95 to Rs. 90 crores in 1995-96, extension of Computerised Passenger Reservation System, installation of Micro Processor based Self Printing Ticket

Machines etc. For comforts of passengers in trains, Train Superintendents and Instant Action Groups have been provided on selected trains.

Harnessing of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Kerala

395. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in harnessing the non-conventional energy sources in Kerala ;

(b) the total amount spent in this sector so far in the State; and

(c) the details of the plan for the future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) (a) : 42,000 family size biogas plants, 2 community institutional biogas plants, 4.48 lakhs improved chulhas, 5 biomass gasifiers, 36 integrated rural energy programme cells, 3 urjagrams, 2319 m² collector areas under solar water heaters, 188 solar cookers, 9810 solar lanterns, 715 solar photovoltaic (SPV) domestic lights, 420 SPV street lights, 4 SPV power packs, 2.025 MW of wind power, 20 KW of small hydro power and 150 KW wave power projects etc. have been set up in the State of Kerala.

(b) An amount of about Rs. 19.83 crores have been spent by the central Government for setting up these projects.

(c) The plan for the current financial year is for the installation of 1500 family size biogas plants ; 2 community / institutional biogas plants ; 70,000 improved chulhas, 10,000 solar lanterns, 450 SPV domestic lights and 215 SPV street lights. Seven small hydro projects with aggregate capacity of 17 MW are under construction. Besides these, a joint sector wind estate company has been set up in Kerala with equity participation by IREDA, State Government and private investors to encourage small investors in this sector.

[Translation]

ADB Loan for Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Kerala

396. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have requested the Asian Development Bank for loan for harnessing of Non-Conventional Energy Sources ;