

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):** (a) to (c): Foreign tourists are allowed to visit the Northern group of islands only (excluding reserved areas) subject to compliance with the entry formalities. Applications from foreign tourists for permission to visit these islands have to reach the Ministry of Home Affairs at least three weeks in advance from the proposed date of visit. A total of 64 foreign tourists are reported to have visited Port Blair (Andaman Islands) from 1st January, 1975 to 28th March, 1978.

There are no schemes, for the present to develop Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Central Sector as large scale development of tourist facilities in these Islands is dependent upon removal of entry restrictions for international tourists and better communication facilities. The Island Administration, however, has provided a 16-bed Tourist Bungalow of Port Blair, and proposes to construct additional accommodation at Port Blair during the Fifth Plan.

**Opening of Branches of S.B.I. and Nationalised Banks in Himachal Pradesh**

1883. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PRA-SHAR:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of the State Bank of India and other Nationalised Banks in each one of the 12 Districts of Himachal Pradesh as on 1st January, 1976; and

(b) the names of the banks which have proposals for or have sanctioned opening of new branches in each one of these Districts indicating the locations thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):** (a): The requisite information is set

out in Statement—I Laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10609/76].

(b) Branch opening is undertaken by the banks within the framework of three year plans. The plans for the years 1976—78 are still under scrutiny of the Reserve Bank. However, the names of the places in Himachal Pradesh in respect of which the public sector banks hold licences issued/allotments made for branch opening, as on December 31, 1975 are set out in Statement—II laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10609/76].

**Grant of Agricultural Loans by Nationalised Banks in Himachal Pradesh**

1884. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who applied for loans for agricultural purposes from the nationalised banks in each one of the 12 districts of Himachal Pradesh during the calendar year 1975; and

(b) the number of persons, district-wise who were sanctioned these loans alongwith the number of cases rejected and those which are still pending?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):** (a) and (b). Data regarding number of applications received and number of applications rejected/pending are not available, as the same are not compiled in the manner asked for. However, district-wise data regarding borrowal accounts under both direct and indirect agricultural advances made by all scheduled commercial banks including nationalised banks is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.