

[English]

High Level Co-ordination Committee to Improve Tourism

5028. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether a High level Co-ordination Committee has been formed by Government with a representative of Eastern States to improve Tourism in the Eastern States ;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up similar committees for other States also to improve the tourism there ; and

(c) if so, when the decision in this regard is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SYED) : (a) to (c) Development and improvement of tourism infrastructure is a continuous process and Co-ordination Committees are set up for specific purpose, whenever considered necessary. A Task Force has been set for development of Buddhist Circuit, some of which fall in the Eastern States. Another Committee has been set up for promotion of tourism to North Eastern Region on which representatives from all the States/ Union Territories from that region have been nominated. A Steering Committee has also been constituted for formulating schemes for integrated development of Andamans as a tourist resort.

Cultural Agreements with Foreign Countries

5029. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARSAHAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of countries with which India has cultural agreements ; and

(b) if so, the broad features of these agreements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) The Government has entered into Cultural Agreements with the undermentioned 75 countries :

Turkey, Indonesia, Japan, Iran, Poland, Romania, Arab Republic of Egypt, Czechoslovakia, USSR, Yugoslavia, Mongolia, Norway, Greece, Hungary, Bulgaria, Afghanistan, France, Brazil, Federal Republic of Germany, Tunisia, Philippines, Kuwait, Australia, Bangladesh, German Democratic Republic, Mauritius, Iraq, Belgium, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Senegal, Colombia, Argentina, Republic of Korea, Sudan, Guyana, Bahrain, Tanzania, Zambia, Rwanda, Mexico, United Arab Emirates, Syria, Jordan, Algeria, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Cuba, Lesotho, Italy, Vietnam, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Zaire, Somalia, Portugal, Qatar, Morocco, Cyprus, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Ghana, Uganda, Mozambique, Nigeria, Soan, Ethiopia, Finland, Maldives, Burkina Faso (Upper Volta), Yemen Arab Republic, Venezuela, Netherlands, Libya, Benin, and Nicaragua.

(b) Broadly speaking Cultural Agreements provide for promotion of relations and understanding in the fields of Art, Culture, Archaeology, Education (including academic activities in the fields of Science and Technology), Social Welfare, Public Health, Mass Media and Sports etc. through the exchange of reciprocal visits of academicians, artistes, art groups, sports teams, media personnels and exchange of exhibitions, books and textbooks and other literature, radio and TV programmes and by holding Joint Seminar, films shows etc. To achieve these objectives, Cultural Agreements also generally provide for the setting up of a Joint Committee/Commission which meet alternatively in the capital of each country to review the activities undertaken in these fields and to prepare/formulate programme of special exchanges in these fields in the next 2-3 years.

Economic Aid from USSR

5030. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :
SHRI S. M. GURADDI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement for offer of two billion roubles from the Soviet Union has been signed recently ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) The Soviet Union has offered a credit of roubles 1200 million (approximately Rs. 1680 crores) to India for covering the Rouble cost of projects in the Power, Steel, Coal and Oil sectors. In addition, an amount of Roubles 300 million (approximately Rs. 420 crores) will be made available from the Central Account of the Soviet Union with the Reserve Bank of India for meeting the rupee cost of a project in the Power Sector.

(b) The Ruble 1200 million credit will finance the rouble cost of (1) Tehri Hydro-electric Power Complex at Tehri on a turnkey basis, (2) the reconstruction and modernisation of the two converter shops alongwith the construction of steel continuous casting departments and modernisation of hotrolling mill 2000 at Bokaro Steel Plant on a turnkey basis, (3) setting up of 4 underground mines at Kapuri Mahal, parbatpur, Kharkharee-Dharamabad, and (4) intensive and integrated exploration for hydrocarbons in West Bengal on a turnkey basis. The amount of 300 million roubles will be made available over a period of 6 years (commencing from 1988 to 1993) at the rate of Roubles 50 million per year for rupee financing of the Tehri Project. The credit will be repaid in 5 equal annual instalments commencing from the year of the commissioning of the first hydro unit, but not later than January 1, 1994.

Loans to Flood Affected Farmers of Andhra Pradesh

5031. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether complaints have been received that Commercial Banks are showing indifferent attitude in issuing loans to farmers particularly in the flood affected areas in Andhra Pradesh ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to see that needy farmers are given adequate loans by Commercial Banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have not received any specific complaints mentioning that commercial banks are showing indifferent attitude to farmers particularly in floods affected areas in Andhra Pradesh. RBI have further reported that they had issued certain guidelines to the banks in the year 1984 indicating the manner and extent of relief and rehabilitation assistance that should be provided by banks to persons affected by natural calamities such as floods, drought, cyclones, etc. These guidelines envisage conversion and re-scheduling of existing loans, provision of additional working capital facilities, condonation or waiver of shortfall in margin, giving time to borrowers to provide margin money out of future cash generation, relaxation of security criteria etc.

Reserve Bank of India have recently, in October 1986 reiterated these instructions to the banks advising them to follow the instructions in the matter of providing relief to the persons affected by the floods in Andhra Pradesh

Export of Rice

5032. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of Rice exported with quantity-wise break-up and the value of foreign exchange earned during the current year as on 1st October, 1986 ; and

(b) the reasons for low export of fine and superfine rice ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) The quantity and value of export of basmati rice and non-basmati rice during April to September, 1986, as per provisional data compiled, is estimated as under :—