

facilitate visit of tourists to neighbouring countries. Visas to genuine tourists are freely granted by Missions without prior reference to the Govt. of India.

The following corporate strategies were planned at the seminar for tourism promotion to India :

1. Lower promotional airfares supported by low tourist packages during the off-season such as "Affordable India", Himalayan and Adventure Tourism, Congress and Conventions, incentives, etc.
2. Inclusion of Tourism courses as part of staff training, enhancement of agents education tours to India, promotion of tourism through Departmental stores in foreign markets.
3. Increased participation in Trade Fairs and Travel Marts and also inviting Indian tour operators and hotel chains to participate in the promotion of Indian food festivals.

Raise in Limit for House Building Advance for Staff of Nationalised Banks

5090. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have raised the limit for house building advance for the staff of the nationalised banks in view of the raise in construction costs ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Government has raised the limit of House Building Advance upto Rs. 1.10 lacs for clerical staff and Rs. 75,000/- for subordinate staff of public sector banks, on interest of half of the existing Bank Rate (which is 5% at present), other terms & conditions already existing in each bank remaining unchanged.

[*Translation*]

Grant of Loans to firms Located Outside Branch Jurisdiction

5091. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any restriction on bank branches to grant loans to parties living outside in the area of their jurisdiction ; and

(b) if so, the details of guidelines issued in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that there are no restrictions on the branches of the banks to grant loans to parties living outside their jurisdiction. However, generally the branches of banks are required to extend credit to parties residing within the reasonable distance from the branches to ensure proper supervision of the end-use of the funds and effective follow-up.

[*English*]

Alleged Irregularities in Bank of India Examination for Probationary Officers

5092. SHRI P. M. SAYEED :

SHRI RAM DHAN :

SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI :

SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the report published in the Times of India of 26 October, 1986 (Delhi Edition) alleging certain irregularities in the Union Bank of India examination for probationary officers ;

(b) if so, the facts of the case ; and

(c) the precautions taken to ensure that such incidents do not recur ?