

Policies to Promote Tourism During 8th Plan

4125. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

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

(a) the details of proposed National Policy for promotion of tourism during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether any tourism scheme has been prepared for each State/Union Territory in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The development of tourism is a continuous process and it includes improvement of infrastructural facilities, strengthening of publicity and marketing efforts and development of human resources.

(b) and (c) The schemes/projects for each State are prepared by the respective State Governments. The Department of Tourism, Government of India extends financial assistance to State Governments on the basis of specific proposals received from them their relative merits, inter-se-priority, availability of funds. During the 8th Plan period financial assistance amounting to Rs.3583.91 lakhs has been provided to various State Governments.

Small Savings Agents

4126. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government aware of the complaints of Small Savings agents regarding delay in payment of their commission; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken for timely payment of the commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware about delay in the payment of commission to the Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojana (MPKBY) Agents.

(b) The Ministry of Finance has been taking suitable and timely action in this regard. The latest such action was taken on 24.7.1995 by which the Regional Directors, National Savings Organisation have been authorised to issue outstation cheques to the agents upto Rs. 5000/-. As a result, the delay will be reduced considerably.

[Translation]

Leading Tourist Spots

4127. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the first ten leading tourism spots of the country in view of the number of foreign tourists visited there during the last three years; and

(b) the number of similar spots where domestic tourists visited during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) According to a foreign tourist survey conducted during 1988-89, the top ten places visited by the foreign tourists are :

Bombay, Delhi, Madras, Agra, Jaipur, Goa, Calcutta, Bangalore, Thiruvanthapuram and Udaipur.

No such survey has been conducted since 1988-89. A large number of domestic tourists also visit the above places apart from a number of pilgrim centres.

[English]

International Airport at Bangalore

4128. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work at the International Airport at Bangalore has since commenced;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress made; and

(c) by when it is likely to be completed and start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) The Government of India has given its 'no objection' to the State Government of Karnataka, for construction of an airport of international standard at Devanahalli in Bangalore with the help of private parties. The project is still in the planning stage.

[Translation]

Foreign Exchange from Tourist Spots

4129. DR. P. R. GANGWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the tourism spots in the country, State-wise;

(b) the annual foreign exchange and Indian Currency earned by each State from such tourism spots; and

(c) the percentage of the revenue earned is spent on the development and improvement of such spots and the amount spent on the maintenance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Identification and development of tourist spots is a continuous process and is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments.