

tourism in the Eastern Region the following proposals are under consideration for implementation in the Central Sector:—

(i) Setting up of a Janata Hotel at Calcutta.

(ii) Promotion of trekking in the Himalayan region;

(iii) Development of facilities at Bodhgaya, Rajgir and Nalanda for promoting Buddhist pilgrims traffic.

(iv) Expansion of ITD's Travellers Lodge at Bodhgaya.

(v) Construction of hotel at Puri by ITDC.

(vi) Expansion of the ITDC Travellers Lodge/construction of beach cottages at Konark.

Visit of a Delegation of Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry to USSR

1392. SHRI SHIV KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI NIHAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Delegation of Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India recently visited USSR;

(b) if so, outcome of the discussion about the economic cooperation and other matters held with the Soviet Leaders;

(c) the extent to which the trade agreements reached as a result of the discussions will be beneficial to India; and

(d) the details of the amount of which the trade agreements have been reached between two countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It appears that the Soviet Union has shown interest in the promotion of cooperation of companies and firms of Indian private sector with Soviet foreign trade organisations. The delegations have also discussed possibilities of setting up joint cooperation projects in the markets of third countries, in particular, in the countries of South-East Asia and the Middle-East.

(c) No trade agreement was concluded between the two delegations.

(d) Does not arise.

Directions to Public Institutions to improve Utilisation of Soft Loans

1393. DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to improve utilisation of soft loans, Government have directed public institutions to provide 80 per cent of their loan sanctions as bridge loans;

(b) if so, whether this decision has been taken just to expedite machinery purchased by the beneficiaries for purpose of modernisation and expansion,

(c) whether the institutions have pointed out to Government that this facility might not make much impact on the modernisation and expansion programme;

(d) if so, what are the main reasons for this slow progress; and

(e) whether many institutions have made least use of soft loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) and (b). While Government have not issued any directives to the financial institutions to grant bridge loans, the