

(b) The amount spent by the Deptt. of Tourism and ITDC in Bihar to develop tourism during the VIth Five Year Plan (1980-81 to 1984-85) is Rs. 152.05 lakhs in comparison to a total expenditure amount of Rs. 606.63 lakhs spent by the Deptt. of Tourism and ITDC for all the rest of the States and Union Territories.

Changing of the Financial Year

833. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have finally decided to stick to the present financial year (April to March) and has rejected the Jha Committee recommendation to switch over to the calendar year;

(b) if so, the considerations which have weighed with Government in arriving at this decision; and

(c) the merits and demerits of changing over the financial year to January to December or July-June as suggested by the Jha Committee, as compared to the present set-up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The matter is under consideration of the Government, in consultation with the State Governments, keeping all relevant factors in view.

[*Translation*]

Loans Advanced to Bogus Firms by Calcutta Based Branch of Allahabad Bank

834. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Calcutta-based branch of Allahabad Bank has advanced loans to some bogus firms;

(b) if so, the names of these firms and the amount of loan given in an irregular manner;

(c) whether the officers of this bank are also involved in this deal;

(d) if so, whether any action has been taken against those bank officers/employees who are involved in this fraud; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b), S/Shri R.K. Jain, S.K. Poddar and J.P. Poddar, in collusion among themselves and in connivance with some officials of Bank of Baroda at its different branches in Calcutta, managed to obtain large credit facilities in the nature of kite flying and group transactions and subsequently through letters of credit facilities granted to them. The three branches of the bank at Calcutta had also co-accepted the bills to facilitate their discounting through other banks in Calcutta, including Allahabad Bank. However, the transactions involving Allahabad Bank do not appear to be fraudulent.

(c) to (e). Do not arise.

[*English*]

'India on the House Scheme' for Attracting Tourists in the Country

835. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has announced a new scheme called "India on the House" to attract more tourists;

(b) whether the scheme has been published without properly tying up the details and making full arrangements with the concerned authorities; and

(c) expectations/targets for generating more tourist inflow in the country and the financial gains expected ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In the first year of operation we