

(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

expect to attract at least 2500 additional foreign tourists to India through this scheme.

Priority to Pilgrimage Tourism in Seventh Five Year Plan

836. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 'pilgrimage tourism' has been accorded any priority in the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so the nature of priority given in the plan and the total amount allocated for this purpose;

(c) the places of pilgrimage and tourist importance which have been specially selected for this purpose, State-wise and the facilities proposed to be provided thereon; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to accord any priority to this concept and evolve any comprehensive programme in consultation with the India Tourism Development Corporation and State Government for this purpose and the likely date by which it would be done ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). Promotion of pilgrim tourism has been accorded due priority in the Seventh Five Year Plan. A provision of Rs. 150 lakhs has been made in the Seventh Five Year Plan for this purpose including Rs. 40 lakhs for the current financial year. Also, the Department of Tourism set up a registered society in the year 1978, called Bhartiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti for the purpose of construction of Dharamshalas (Yatrikas) at important pilgrim centres throughout the country with a view to meeting the needs of pilgrims visiting different religious centres in the country.

(c) A list of the centres where the Bhartiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti proposes to construct Yatrikas is given in the statement below. These Yatrikas are designed to provide neat, but inexpensive accommodation for the pilgrims. Yatrikas at Chitrakoot and Amarkantak (M.P.) have already been commissioned. Yatrikas at Brindavan, Kampil, Nandmehar (UP), Bidar (Karnataka) and Puri (Orissa) are under construction. The final selection, has however, to be made in consultation with State Governments and Union Territories.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

List of Proposed Yatrikas to be Constructed by Bhartiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti

1. ANDHRA PRADESH

(Any two will be constructed)

1. Sri Sailem
2. Amarwati
3. Srikakulam

2. ASSAM

(one —do—)

1. Gauhati (Kamakshi Devi)

3. BIHAR

(Any three —do—)

1. Bihar Sharif
2. Gaya
3. Deoghar
4. Harmandir Sahib, Patna