

cultural activities for giving hundred per cent deduction or tax rebate for any donations made; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to amend section 35 of the Income-tax Act on these lines. The said section already permits deduction, inter-alia, of any sum paid to a university, College or other institution to be used for research in social science or statistical research related to the class of business carried on, being a university, college or institution which is for the time being approved for the purposes of this clause by the prescribed authority.

(b) Does not arise.

**Proposal to Increase Tourism in Lakshadweep Islands**

8658. PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what steps are proposed to be taken to increase tourism in Lakshadweep Islands; and

(b) whether helicopter service between Cochin and Lakshadweep is proposed to be started for promotion of tourism in the island ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) (a) The Government proposes to promote tourism to Lakshadweep Islands on a selective basis keeping in view the ecological and environmental considerations and the availability of infrastructure,

(b) No such proposal is under consideration, at present.

**Loans for Purchase of new Cars for Taxi Purposes**

8659. PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any complaint that even after depositing 25 per cent of the invoice price as margin money, the nationalised banks in Kerala refuse to advance loans for purchase of new cars for taxi purposes.

(b) if so, whether any direction has been given by the Reserve Bank of India not to give advance loans for vehicles; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India has advised that a representation dated 7th November, 1985 was received by them from the Cochin Taxi Operators, Cochin. Besides, a request to reduce the rate of interest charged by the nationalised banks to 6% per annum, it also raised the issue of refusal of loans by many nationalised banks for lifting new cars for taxi purposes, even though the taxi operators were prepared to remit 25% of the invoice price as margin money.

Reserve Bank of India has advised the Association that small road transport operators owning a fleet of vehicles not exceeding 6 vehicles, including the one proposed to be financed were included in the priority sector. Accordingly, the concessional rate of interest is charged by the commercial banks in respect of the advances sanctioned to such borrowers at 12.5% per annum upto 2 vehicles and 15% per annum for more than 2 vehicles. As regards refusal of loans for lifting new cars to taxi purposes, the Association has also been advised to approach the Regional Office of Reserve Bank of India at Trivendrum alongwith specific cases of refusal with full particulars to enable them to examine the matter.

**Change in Rules for Foreign and Neighbourhood Travel Services**

8660. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA :  
SHRIMATI USHA  
CHOUDHARI :  
SHRI YASHWANT RAO  
GADAKH PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :