

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SYED) : (a) and (b) There is a general shortage in practically all segments of tourist infrastructure facilities in some of the major tourist centre in the country. The major problem, is the shortage of hotel accommodation of adequate standards to cater to international as well as domestic tourists.

(c) and (d) The infrastructure facilities available are not keeping pace with the growing demand due to increase in the number of foreign tourists. Therefore, all out efforts are being made to augment these facilities as fast as possible. The development of infrastructure is a continuous process and the Department of Tourism is taking all possible measures to augment these facilities with the combined resources of the Centre, State and private sectors.

RBI Proposal Re-sale of US Dollar

1811. **SHRI D.N. REDDY :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal with the Reserve Bank of India to commence sale of US dollars to authorised dealers for transactions ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details regarding the working of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) At present RBI sells only spot Pound Sterling to the authorised dealers. Since a large portion of India's trade payment is handled in US Dollars, authorised dealers have to obtain US Dollars for making payments against Pound Sterling acquired from RBI. This process at times can result in loss on account of conversion. The Reserve Bank of India is, therefore, considering a proposal for sale of US Dollars to the authorised dealers for transactions denominated in US Dollars only. The question of working out the details of the scheme would arise only after a final decision is taken by the RBI about the introduction of the scheme.

Introduction of Pension Scheme in Nationalised Banks

1812. **SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether pension scheme for employees is in existence in some of the nationalised banks ;

(b) if so, their particulars ; and

(c) the reasons for not introducing this scheme in the remaining nationalised banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Of the 28 public sector banks, pension benefits are available to employees of three banks, namely, State Bank of India, State Bank of Hyderabad and Allahabad Bank.

(b) In terms of the pension schemes in these banks, the employees who are members of the Pension Fund in State Bank of India and State Bank of Hyderabad are eligible to get pension upto a maximum of Rs. 1000/- per month and in Allahabad Bank at the rate of 35% for the officers and clerks and 40% for sub-staff of the average monthly basic pay drawn during 12 months preceding the date of retirement, subject to a minimum of Rs. 100/- per month. In State Bank of India and in Allahabad Bank relief on pension is also paid as per Government guidelines from time to time.

(c) According to the service conditions of the employees in public sector banks only two types of superannuation benefits are available, viz., Contributory Provident Fund and Gratuity. In State Bank of India, State Bank of Hyderabad and Allahabad Bank pension has a historical background and this was one of the superannuation benefits in lieu of gratuity in the pre-nationalisation period. Introduction of the Pension Scheme in the remaining banks would have far reaching financial implication. Moreover, the package of benefits already available to the remaining public sector banks compares favourably with the available in the other public sector organisations.

Export of Wheat by MMTC to Korea

1813. **SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :