

(d) if so the response made by them; and

(e) the criteria adopted for selecting sites tourist villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) to (e) Yes Sir. The Department of Tourism has under consideration a proposal for the setting up of Tourist Villages. The concept evolved for the Tourist Villages is to give tourists a flavour and feel of village life. They would be located in non-urban areas and preferably on National Highways so as to be easily accessible. A circular was addressed to the State Governments in December 1981 inviting their response to the proposal and requesting them to suggest 3 to 4 likely places for locating the Tourist Villages. The response received from some of the States is quite encouraging. According to the proposal, the land and other infrastructural facilities like approach road, electricity and water would be provided by the State Governments and the Central Department of Tourism would provide funds for the construction of different categories of accommodation and other amenities. The Tourist Villages will be located on any one of the travel circuits identified in each State and Union Territory along National Highways. The actual execution of the scheme will depend upon the availability of funds and *inter se* priorities.

#### Visit of Tourists coming for Asian games 1982 to places of interest

201. SHRI D. M. PUTTE GOWDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes/programmes are in hand for taking round foreign tourists coming for Asian Games, 1982 to places of tourist interest; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b). Government does not arrange tours for foreign tourist. This is done by travel agents. For arranging tours of tourists coming for Asian Games an 'ASIAD' Travel Agents Consortium' has been formed comprising four travel agents. A number of tours and excursions will be offered by this consortium to tourists visiting India for the Asian Games 1982.

#### Formation of Jute Board

202. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force on the jute industry, appointed by the Government, has recommended for the formation of Jute Board;

(b) if so, whether Government have since taken any decision thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Empowered Committee of Secretaries set up to advise the Government on the recommendations of Task Force have advised that, instead of setting up a Jute Board, there should be a permanent Steering Committee on the jute industry in the Central Government to achieve inter-departmental coordination on activities at the field level. Final decision on the advice of the Empowered Committee is yet to be taken by the Government.

#### Fixation of price of W5 Grade of Raw Jute

203. SHRI CHITTA BASU: SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of West Bengal has recently suggested that