

(a) whether Government have made any exercise to know the frauds, being committed, by the companies on the pretext of undertaking or sponsoring scientific research for the purposes of tax exemptions;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the number of such cases, if any, that have come to light during the last one year with names of the companies; and

(c) the extent to which these companies have defrauded the Exchequer by deriving tax exemptions and the action taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) to (c) A Research Review Group is functioning in the Office of the Secretary, Department of Science & Technology New Delhi, the prescribed authority for purposes of section 35 of the Income-tax Act, 1961. It reviews the activities of approved Scientific Research Institutions on the basis of annual returns submitted by these Institutions in the prescribed form. During the course of searches at Delhi, documents have been seized and certain irregularities have come to notice. Names of the companies are as under :

1. Usha International Ltd.
2. Industrial and Allied Sales Pvt. Ltd.
3. Madan Mohan Lal Sriram Pvt. Ltd.
4. General Sales (Pvt.) Ltd.
5. Astra Commercial (P) Ltd
6. Meghdoot (Pvt.) Ltd.
7. Karna Industries.

Appropriate action under the Income-tax Act, 1961, will be taken after investigations are completed.

Decline in Tourist Traffic in India

2293 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have lately decided to bring down the target of tourist arrivals in India, if so, to what extent and the revised target ;

(b) the main reasons for bringing down the tourist-target ;

(c) whether it is a fact that tourist traffic in India has been on the decline while there has been spectacular growth of such traffic in the neighbouring countries like Thailand, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and Hong Kong; and

(d) the relevant figures showing growth of tourist traffic in India and these countries during the past three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b) The Government has proposed to bring down the target of tourist arrivals by 1990 from 35 Lakhs to 25 Lakhs. The revision of the target has been necessitated in view of recessionary conditions in the main tourist generating markets in recent years and the consequent decline in the growth of tourist traffic in general.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The tourist traffic to India in absolute terms has been increasing continuously during the last few years. The relevant figures showing the growth of tourist traffic to India and these countries are as given below :—

(in thousands)

	1981	1982	%Change	1983	%Change
India \angle a	1279	1288	0.7	1305	1.3
Thailand	2016	2218	10.1	2191	-1.2

	1981	1982	%Change	1983	%Change
Singapore	2829	2957	4.5	2854	-3.5
Sri Lanka	371	407	9.8	327	-19.6
Malaysia	1660	2093	26.1	1321 \angle b	4.9 \angle d
Hong Kong	2535	2609	2.9	1735 \angle c	3.8 \angle d

\angle a including nationals from Pakistan and Bangladesh.

\angle b relates to January-June.

\angle c relates to January-August.

\angle d compared to corresponding period of previous year.

Small Loans to Poor through Nationalised Banks

2294. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased
to state :

(a) whether Government have launched
a programme for giving out small loans not
exceeding Rs 1000/- each to the poor
through nationalised banks to help the poor
in securing self-employment by way of
purchase of implements, etc. for carrying
out their profession or craft, so as to be
able to cross the poverty line;

(b) if so, the details of the programme ;
and

(c) the criteria and guidelines to be
followed in the matter and the targets,
if any, fixed under the programme ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANAR-
DHANA POOJARI) : (a) There is no
special scheme or programme as such
launched by the Government of this kind.

(b) and (c) Dose not arise.

Assessment by U. S. Agencies for International Development (US AID) of aid given by India

2295. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased
to state :

(a) whether the U.S. Agency for Inter-
national Development (US AID) has made
an assessment of the aid given by India to
the proper nations of the third world ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI-
PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Dose not arise.

Suggestions made by Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry to save Textile Industry

2296. SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL :
SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR : Will
the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to
state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian
Chamber of Commerce and Industry has
expressed concern over the threat of nationa-
lisation of more textile mills in the
country;

(b) whether the FICCI has made certain
suggestions to save textile industry; if so, the
details there of;

(c) whether Government are consider-
ing to announce a Policy package for
textile industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and how
far it will be helpful in saving the textile
industry?