

GANESH) : (a) No article or piece of jewellery has been confiscated by the Government.

(b) These items of jewellery are still deposited with a Bank at Bombay in the joint names of the Begum of Rampur and the Income Tax Officer.

Downward Trend of Tourism in the Eastern Region

5743. **SHRI ROBIN KAKOTI :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Directors of Tourism in the Eastern Region met at Calcutta recently to discuss the downward trend of Tourism in the Eastern Region ; and

(b) if so, their findings about the causes of this downward trend ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir. The meeting of these Directors took place in Calcutta on 2nd and 3rd July, 1971.

(b) The causes for the downward trend listed by these Directors in the order of priority are :

1. Adverse publicity tarnishing the image of Calcutta.
2. Psychological fear among potential tourists due to the law and order situation in Calcutta, which is the dispersal point for the Eastern region.
3. The recent news of the spread of cholera in epidemic form.
4. Development of tourism in Nepal with direct flights from Bangkok and Dacca adversely affecting the traffic to Eastern India.
5. Restrictive entry permits.
6. Communications bottlenecks.
7. Lack of adequate publicity for places of interest in the Eastern region.
8. Lack of hotel accommodation and reliable transport in remote areas.

Assistance for Flood affected people of Lakhimpur District of Assam

5744. **SHRI ROBIN KAKOTI :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any amount has been sanctioned or proposed to be sanctioned for flood affected people of Lakhimpur District, Assam which was badly affected by the recent floods ; and

(b) if so, the amount thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) and (b). No request for Central assistance towards flood relief expenditure in Assam has so far been received from the State Government.

Schemes for Development of Tourist Centres in Assam

5745. **SHRI ROBIN KAKOTI :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Assam Government submitted any schemes for development of Tourist Centres in Assam during the period from 1968 to 1971 ;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned year-wise ; and

(c) the amount spent by the Assam Government out of the sanctioned amount ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Assam asked for construction of 3 tourist bungalows in the Central Sector, one each at Kaziranga, Gauhati and Manas. Recently, however, the State Government have mentioned a number of schemes costing Rs. 78 lakhs.

(b) The Central Government sanctioned a scheme for the electrification of Kaziranga Wild Life Sanctuary which was completed in 1968-69 at a cost of Rs. 70,335. It is proposed to take up the following schemes in the Fourth Plan period :

1. Construction of a tourist bungalow at Kaziranga.
2. Provision of two mini-buses at Kaziranga at a cost of Rs. 86,000/-.