

(c) what steps have been taken to develop tourism in the State?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) No survey has been carried out by the Department of Tourism regarding the tourist development potential of Assam. However, an industrial potential survey comprising the officials of Industrial Development Bank of India, Industrial Finance Corporation of India, Reserve Bank of India and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India *inter alia* referred to tourism potential of Assam and suggested certain measures like provision of economic air transport development of hotel accommodation and promotional efforts by the Central/State Departments of Tourism.

(b) if so, the reaction of the Central Sector to develop tourism in Assam include setting up a tourist bureau at Gauhati, construction of tourist bungalow at Gauhati, low income rest houses at Gauhati and Shillong, a rest house at Kaziranga Wild Life Sanctuary and improvement of rest houses at Cherrapunji. These are in addition to facilities created by the Government of Assam.

#### Overdrafts by States

3655. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAKKAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government have urged upon the Central Government to adopt lenient and sympathetic view so far as the question of over-drafts to States are concerned; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). The re-

ference is presumably to the decision taken by the Government that no State will be permitted to regard overdraft on the Reserve Bank of India as a budgetary resources. The Kerala Government has raised no objection against this decision.

#### Scheme to Increase the Number of Tourist Centres in Kerala

3656. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAKKAPPAN:  
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration any scheme to increase the number of Tourist Centres in Kerala with a view to earning more foreign exchange; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (b). The development of places of tourist interest is a continuing process related to the attractions they offer. With a view to attracting destination traffic to India, Government are developing Kovalam as a beach resort and a Youth Hostel is being constructed by the Central Government at Trivandrum during the Fourth Plan.

#### World Bank's Assistance for Projects in Kerala

3657. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAKKAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of Projects in Kerala for which the World Bank has given financial assistance during the last three years;

(b) the amount given, project-wise and