

Schemes to Promote Tourism in Hilly Areas

467. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA" : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes have been formulated during the last three years by the Union Government for encouraging tourism in different areas of the country and whether there is any special scheme for encouraging tourism in hilly areas;

(b) if so, the number of tourist centres set up in Uttar Pradesh alongwith hilly districts of the state during each of the last three years and the number of tourists visited there;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Union Government for the near future for providing facility to the tourists during the summer vacation in hilly areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) Tourism in hilly areas is being encouraged by providing a higher tax incentive of 50% in the case of hotels set up in hilly areas and which start operating between 1.4.1997 and 31.3.2002. The Department of Tourism provided assistance for the following projects in the hills of U.P. during the last three years:

- (1) Reception Centre at Rishikesh
- (2) Aero Sports Jolly
- (3) River Rafting equipment
- (4) Ski equipment for Auli
- (5) Water sports equipment, Nanaksagar
- (6) Kumaon Festival
- (7) Garhwal Festival

The number of tourists who visited the hills of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years are estimated to be as follows :

Year	Domestic	Foreign	Total
1995	1,39,83,000	41,000	1,40,24,000
1996	1,56,44,356	45,220	1,56,89,576
1997	1,62,70,130	47,028	1,63,17,158

(c) and (d) Tourist facilities at hilly places are normally utilised in the summer times. Department of Tourism has provided Central Financial Assistance for tourist complexes, tourist reception centres, cafeterias, way-side amenities etc. in hilly regions.

[Translation]

Payment of Royalty for Coal

468. SHRI LARANG SAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated quantity of coal extracted per day from various mines in Bihar particularly in Sarguja district;

(b) the royalty paid to the State on per day basis;

(c) whether the Government have noticed any irregularities in making payment of royalty to the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to check such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) CIL intimated that Sarguja District is in the State of Madhya Pradesh and not in Bihar. However, the estimated quantity of coal extracted per day in the mines of Bihar and in the mines of Sarguja District in Madhya Pradesh during the year 1997-98 were as under:

(In '000 tonnes)

In Bihar Mines	245.36
In the mines of Sarguja District	30.35

(b) According to CIL, royalty is paid to the State Government on despatches of coal on monthly basis and not on daily basis. Details of royalty paid to the different States by subsidiaries of CIL during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
West Bengal	7.82	10.87	12.64
Bihar	658.33	682.77	665.24
Orissa	180.79	185.33	237.42
Maharashtra	217.90	200.29	204.79
M.P.	666.77	684.14	663.63
Uttar Pradesh	113.50	121.41	102.35
Assam	21.59	9.92	6.13
Total	1866.70	1894.73	1892.20

(c) to (e) No information about any irregularities in making royalty payments by the coal companies to the coal producing states has come to the notice of Ministry of Coal.