

Tourism in U.T. Chandigarh

475. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal for encouragement of tourism in Union Territory of Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that world famous Rock Garden of Chandigarh has the potential of attracting tourists of the world ; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to encourage tourism in Chandigarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) to (d) Development of tourism is a continuing process and is primarily undertaken by the state Government/UT Administration. However, Department of Tourism, Government of India provides assistance for the development of tourism infrastructure based on specific project proposals received from the state Govts./UT Administration and the availability of funds.

During the last three years, the Department of Tourism has sanctioned financial assistance for the Carnival Festival, Printing of publicity material, the Rose Festival, Boats for Sukhna Lake and the Garden Festival in Chandigarh.

[Translation]

Package for Eastern UP and Bihar

476. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received demands for a Special Economic Package for development of areas of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Northern Bihar (besides Jharkhand); and

(b) if so, the amount demanded for this economic package and initiatives being taken by the Government for the same?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) No request for Special economic package for Eastern UP has been received in the recent past.

However, a representation seeking special compensatory package for North Bihar after creation of Vananchal/Jharkhand for an amount of Rs. 50,000 crores as down right assistance and Rs. 1000 crores per year for ten years, has been received.

When States are bifurcated, share of Central Assistance and Nonplan grants amongst the successor States are being determined by the Planning Commission and the Finance Commission respectively. Appropriate methodology is also evolved for apportionment of existing assets and liabilities to ensure just and equitable distribution at the time of bifurcation.

Issue of Licences

477. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tehsil Meghnagar, a tribal area of district Jhabua in Madhya Pradesh has been declared an industrial area;

(b) if so, the number of industries to which licences have been issued for establishing their units from the year 1990 to March 1998;

(c) the number of industries which have been transferred to other places; and

(d) the reason for transfer of such industries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) A Growth Centre was set up at Meghnagar in Jhabua District in Madhya Pradesh under the scheme of Central assistance for development of infrastructure facilities in "No Industry Districts" and it was completed in October, 1995. Jhabua District has been categorised as an industrially backward district in terms of Ministry of Finance Notification No. S.O.714(E) dated 7th October, 1997.

(b) to (d) In the liberalised economic scenario, it is for the entrepreneurs to decide about the location of their industries. Information on industrial investments are not maintained Tehsil-wise. However, during the period 1990 to March, 1998 one Industrial Licence and two Letters of Intent have been issued and fourteen Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda have been filed for Jhabua District in Madhya Pradesh.

Privatisation of Coal Mines

478. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to hand over the work of coal mining to Private Sector to check mismanagement and corruption prevailing in coal sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the coal sector is likely to be handed over to Private Sector; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?