

**Reduction/Waiving off Penal Interest on
Loans to Coffee Farmers**

929. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been received from the coffee growers of Kerala on the loans availed by them;

(b) if so, the total amount of loans availed by the coffee farmers during the last three years and total amount of interest sought to be waived; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on their request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCE, AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The coffee growers in Kerala have been representing to the Government for waiver of loans given to them by the Coffee Board.

(b) During the last three years, the Coffee Board has not given any loan to the coffee growers .

(c) Government have, in 1997, permitted the Coffee Board to waive penal interest due to the Coffee Board from the growers who repay the principal loan amount with normal interest.

Development of Tourism in Kerala

930. SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tourists visited India during 1997 and 1998 till date, country-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for promoting tourism in Kerala which has vast potential of tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) Total number of foreign tourists who visited India from the major tourist generating countries for the year 1997 and 1998 (January-July) are as follows:

Sl. No.	Country	Foreign tourist arrivals	
		1997	1998 (upto July)
1	2	3	4
1.	United Kingdom	370567	210315
2.	U.S.A.	244239	141046
3.	Sri Lanka	122080	66600
4.	Germany	105979	54118

1	2	3	4
5.	Japan	99729	46575
6.	France	91423	56555
7.	Canada	78570	47349
8.	Malaysia	60401	25519
9.	Italy	53854	29042
10.	Singapore	52004	29430
11.	Australia	50647	29879
12.	Netherlands	44843	29678
13.	Nepal	43155	21664
14.	Switzerland	31717	18906
15.	Spain	22903	10797
16.	South Africa	22218	9538
17.	Belgium	21532	11772
18.	Israel	20162	10266
19.	U.A.E.	19828	8274
20.	Others	818243	454210
Total		2374094	1311533

(b) Various steps taken by the Government to promote tourism in the State include improvement of infrastructural facilities, strengthening of Marketing efforts, sustained human resources development etc. A sum of Rs. 282.00 lakhs has been sanctioned during 1997-98 for various projects which includes upgradation of Nalukettu Heritage building, tourist complex at Kumarakom, Yatri-Niwas at Nelliampathy, Palakkad, Wayside amenities at Karunagapally, purchase of rice boat etc. and festivals like Elephant March and Kerala Village Festival. Some of the important projects sanctioned during 1996-97 include restoration of Bolghatti Palace, resort at Munnar, renovation of Alway Palace, etc.

[Translation]

Recovery of Loans from Industrial Houses

931. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of industrial houses and industrial units did not refund the loans they took from banks and financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details of such industrial houses/units against whom an amount exceeding Rs. 1 lakh is outstanding for the last three years;