

(c) the amount and the number of high officers/managers found involved therein;

(d) whether a high level enquiry into these cases have been conducted;

(e) If so, the details thereof and the action taken against guilty officers; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) Government has not received such report of bank managers having resorted to widespread misutilisation of the public funds giving loans worth crores of rupees to the computer industries.

(b) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Yoga for Foreign Tourists

1001. DR. ASHOK PATEL :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign tourists visiting the country on tourist visa will no more be allowed to attend yoga meditation and teaching classes; and

(b) if so, the justification for taking the aforesaid decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) Specific yoga and student visa is granted to the foreigners desirous of coming to India for attending long term yoga and meditation courses undertaken by the recognised Institute. However, there may be no objection to the foreigners coming on tourist visa and attending yoga classes as a casual visitor.

[English]

Import of Silk

1002. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received demand from Indian Silk Export Promotion Council to re-examine new silk import policy and place silk under open general licence;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the quantity of raw silk imported and exported during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The Indian Silk Export Promotion Council has been requesting the Government of India for removal of Mulberry raw silk from the negative list of imports. The exporters have been representing that indigenous availability of high grade raw silk is not adequate to cater to their demand. In this direction Government of India have recently permitted import of mulberry raw silk conforming to Grade-2A and above against Special Import Licence (SIL) with the condition that the CIF (cost Insurance and freight) value of the surrendered SIL shall be three times the CIF value of the imported goods.

(c) The details of raw silk imported, and silk goods, silk yarn and silk waste certified for export through the certification centres under Central Silk Board during the last three years are as indicated statement below.

Statement

Import of Raw Silk during the last three years

Year	Imported Quantity (In Tons)
1995-96	4149
1996-97	2911
1997-98 (Prov.)	2760
1998-99 (Prov.) (April-Aug. 98)	712

Source : DGCIS, Calcutta

Export of Silk Goods, Silk Yarn, and Silk waste during the last three years:-

Year	Unit : Qty: Silk goods in lakh Sq. Mtrs. Silk yarn in lakh kgs. Silkwaste in lakh kgs.		
	Silk goods	Silk yarn	Silk waste
1995-96	492.56	0.05	0.31
1996-97	480.83	0.06	2.47
1997-98	402.23	0.25	10.38
1998-99 (Apr-Sep.)	188.72	negligible	5.67

Source : Central Silk Board, Bangalore.

[Translation]

Economic Crisis in Maharashtra

1003. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra is facing an economic crunch at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the State Government has sought any financial assistance from the Union Government to overcome the economic crisis;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) As per reports of RBI, Government of Maharashtra has been maintaining and comfortable cash balance in its account with RBI. The State has never been in overdraft in the last year as well as in the current year so far.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) The question does not arise.

[English]

National Tourism Policy

1004. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of Tourism Ministers of States held in the Capital during the first week of August to give inputs for finalising the National Tourism Policy;

(b) if so, the names of the States represented by the Chief Ministers along with their suggestions for a better infrastructure linkages and smoother flow of tourists from the world; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Union Government along with the proposals to enact a legislation to curb the menace of touts, beggars, cheating and misguiding tourists due to which their holidays are ruined in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Tourism Minister's Conference was attended by Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh and Lt. Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Administration alongwith Tourism Ministers from 16 States. Some of the suggestions given by the State Tourism, Ministers for better infrastructure linkages for smoother

flow of tourist include upgradation and development of airports at Bodhgaya, Amritsar, Bhubaneshwar, Baghdogra, better air linkages to the State Capitals of North East Region, Sikkim, and important tourist centres in the country, removal of RAP/PAP in the North Eastern States development of National Highway between Tripura, Manipur and Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Darjeeling, necessary support and incentives for private sector investment in Tourism and use of information technology.

(c) The Conference adopted these suggestions in the form of resolutions. The State Governments were also asked to formulate suitable regulatory measures in the form of Tourism Trade Act, Tourism Assistance Police to ensure the safety and security of tourists.

Plantation Companies

1005. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plantation companies registered by the Registrar of Companies and SEBI, respectively;

(b) the details of the companies which have procured an investment grade;

(c) the details of companies which have not procured an investment grade; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to clamp curbs on these firms?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) As on date, 643 entities operating Collective Investment Schemes have filed information with SEBI.

(b) and (c) SEBI, has stated that so far, no company has obtained an investment grade. A list of companies which have been rated below investment grade ratings is given in the attached statement.

(d) Government issued a press release in November, 1997 bringing plantation scheme in the nature of collective investment schemes under the regulatory jurisdiction of SEBI. Following this SEBI has constituted a committee headed by Dr. S.A. Dave to frame regulation for these schemes. SEBI has also directed the existing Companies to obtain a credit rating before mobilising further funds.

Statement

List of Collective Investment Schemes below Investment Grade

1. Swarnbhoomi Forests (India) Ltd.,
2. Rose Valley Resorts & Plantations Ltd.
3. Timber World Resorts and Plantations India Ltd.
4. Hariyali Plantations (India) Ltd.
5. La Mark Farms Ltd.
6. Shivaji Estate & Livestock Farms Ltd. (SELF)