

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the share of India in the World tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) The percentage share of India in the world tourist arrivals during 1997 was 0.39. The inadequacies in the general level of infrastructure in the country and inadequate resources for promotion are the main reasons for low share of India in the world tourist traffic.

(c) Steps being taken to increase the share of India in the world tourist arrivals include improvement of infrastructural facilities, diversification of tourism products, strengthening of publicity efforts and sustained human resources development.

[Translation]

#### Compounding of Excise Duty

3602. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the trade of Induction-Furnace, rolling mills and scrap, in Uttar Pradesh is facing a very tough time due to compounding of excise duty; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Government have seen reports that the induction furnace and re-rolling mills have been facing difficult times, inter-alia, due to severe demand recession and due to capacity based levy of excise duty. Representations had also been received from the trade and industry seeking changes in certain provisions of the scheme. Some changes have been made. However, the matter is sub judice in the Honourable Supreme Court of India and further changes could be considered only after the judgement of the Supreme Court is received.

[English]

#### Smuggling of Narcotics

3603. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :  
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a sharp increase in the quantity of narcotics smuggled in the country during the last five years;

(b) if so, the quantity thereof, item-wise;

(c) whether the terrorists and organisations are involved in the anti-national activities in different parts of the country are behind such smuggling;

(d) if so, the names of those organisations and the areas where they are active;

(e) whether a special conference on narcotics was held by the United Nations Organisation in the first fortnight of June; and

(f) if so, the details of the decisions taken in the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Cases of seizure of narcotic drugs alongwith arms/ammunition/explosives suggest some involvement of terrorist organisations in drug trafficking. However, the Government does not have any authentic information regarding the names of such organisations and the areas where they are active.

(e) Yes, Sir. The United Nations General Assembly held a Special Session devoted to fight against illicit drugs in New York on 8-10 June, 1998.

(f) The General Assembly adopted unanimously a global strategy setting a 10 year target to eradicate demand and supply of illicit narcotics. The main document of the summit calls for a crack-down on demand and supply of drugs and the elimination of illicit crops with the provision for alternate development. The Resolutions adopted also provide for strong counter-measures to eliminate money laundering and production and abuse of Amphetamines, as well as for enhanced Judicial cooperation between member nations.

[Translation]

#### Training Centres for Employment in Tribal Areas

3604. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI :  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish Training Centre in the Country for providing employment to tribal people; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Khadi & Village Industries Commission have received proposals from North-Eastern States and Madhya Pradesh for establishing Training Centres in tribal areas. These proposals are pending for want of fulfilment of certain conditions by the concerned State Governments.

(b) The details of the proposals received from the concerned States are as follows :

S.No.	State	Location
1.	Meghalaya	Turo (West Garo Hills)
2.	Manipur	Imphal
3.	Nagaland	Dimapur
4.	Madhya Pradesh	Bilaspur

[English]

#### Promotion of Domestic Tourism

3605. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have initiated any policy or have taken any steps to promote domestic tourism apart from tourism connected with pilgrimages at various places for all religions;

(b) if so, whether this includes the budgetary provision for providing accommodation and boarding facilities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) funds earmarked for the purpose during 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) to (d) The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has a policy for development of tourism in the country, including domestic tourism and pilgrimage tourism. This is an on-going process and developmental activities are taken-up by the State Governments. The activities include construction of tourist complexes, wayside amenities, cafeterias; purchase of adventure sports equipment, floodlighting and refurbishment of monuments, putting up Sound & Light Shows; construction of the low-priced accommodation units like Yatri Niwas, Yatrikas and Pilgrim Sheds, etc. Financial assistance for these activities are provided by the Ministry of Tourism on the basis of specific proposals, which are examined on merit and as per guidelines.

In the budget for 1998-99, an amount of Rs. 52.80 crores has been earmarked for the development of tourism infrastructure.

#### LIC Proposal for Separate Company for Pension Business

3606. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has sent any proposal to the Government suggesting having off its pension business into a separate company;

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

(c) the details of the pension scheme floated presently by the LIC and the reasons that weigh with the LIC to suggest separate companies therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has introduced several individual annuity plans such as Jeevan Dhara, Jeevan Akshay, Jeevan Suraksha etc. as well as Group Superannuation Schemes to help individuals and employers to fund for pension benefits. The individual annuity plans are of two types - Deferred Annuities (such as Jeevan Dhara where the annuities start after certain period) and Immediate annuities (such as Jeevan Akshay where the payment of annuity starts immediately. The premium for Jeevan Suraksha Plan is deducted from the taxable income of the contributor upto a limit of Rs. 10,000/- p.a. and further Jeevan Suraksha is a deferred annuity plan.

#### Import of Polerethene

3607. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allowed the import, of Polerethene recently;

(b) if so, the quantum and value of Polerethene thus imported;

(c) whether the Polerethene import has adversely affected the rubber Industry in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. Government has not allowed free import of Polerethene. If the question refers to Polyurethane, it has been freely importable for the last several years. Details of imports are as follows: