

(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 Polyurethene, it has been freely importable for the last several years. Details of imports are as follows: