

principle by the Government in April 1995 could not be implemented for want of resources. Government has since sanctioned the proposal for revival of the Namrup units of HFC. The proposals in respect of the other units of HFC and FCI are being reformulated having regard to the considerations of unit-wise viability and the feasibility of tying up the fresh funds required.

[Translation]

Bogus Insurance

2583. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of bogus insurance are taking place in the country;

(b) if so, the number of cases came to light during the last three years; and

(c) the number of officers held responsible for such negligence and the punishment awarded to them?

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) to (c) The General Insurance Corporation of India, Mumbai has reported that no bogus insurance policies are issued by the subsidiary companies. However, some cases of bogus insurance policies issued unauthorisedly by private persons/organisations have come to the notice. The total number of such cases during the last three years was 9. These bogus insurances were issued by outside parties and the company officials were not involved. These cases were reported to police/CBI for investigations and appropriate action.

Life Insurance Corporation of India has reported that the total number of cases of bogus business during the last three years was 123. The number of company officials involved was 166. Appropriate administrative action was taken against these officials as per the rules including examination from vigilance angle.

[English]

Pichavaram Tourist Spot, T.N.

2584. SHRI VAIKO : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring Pichavaram in Cudalooore district of Tamilnadu on the National Tourist Map in view of its tourist importance and potentiality; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to allocate necessary funds during the current financial year to develop Pichavaram?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) Pichavaram is already a known tourist centre in Tamil Nadu. However, the identification and development of any particular centre is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Union Ministry of Tourism provides assistance on the basis of specific tourism project proposals received from the State Govts. No proposal has been received from the State Government for assistance to develop Pichavaram.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme

2585. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fool proof voluntary retirement scheme and compensation policy has been worked out in respect of PSUs to be closed down under the disinvestment programme;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the number of PSUs employees so far relieved under various disinvestment scheme since 1991?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) A Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the employees of Public Sector Enterprises was framed by DPE in 1988. Extension and enlargement of the scheme with many attractive benefits has been announced in the budget speech for 1998-99.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

National Sericulture Project

2586. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the States alongwith Maharashtra selected for the National Sericulture Project and the details of the work done under this project;

(b) the amount of financial aid received for the above Project from the World Bank and Swiss Development Corporation so far; and

(c) the time by which this project is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The National Sericulture Project was implemented in 5 traditional states viz. Karnataka, Andhra

Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir and 12 non-traditional States viz Assam, Bihar, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana & Himachal Pradesh. In non-traditional states project was implemented in some selected district on pilot basis.

Under the project, infrastructure was created/strengthened for research, training, seed production, extension, reeling and marketing. Besides, project contributed towards a net increase in mulberry area of 59992 hectare. Overall per year increase in silk production by the end of the project was in order of 4212 tonnes.

(b) The financial aid received for the project was US \$ 114.4 million from World Bank and US\$17.4 million from the Swiss Development Corporation.

(c) The project which commenced in 1989 has closed on 31st December, 1996.

Development of Important Religious Places

2587. SHRI VIJAY GOEL Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to develop places which are important from religious point of view as tourist centres alongwith promotion of tourism in all parts of the country:

(b) if so, the names of such places State-wise;

(c) whether any such places have been chosen in the National Capital Region of Delhi itself; and

(d) if so, the names of such places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the basis of the recommendations of a Committee, the following places have been identified for the development of facilities in the first phase:

1. Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh)
2. Kamakhya (Assam)
3. Bodh Gaya and Patna Saheb (Bihar)
4. Dwaraka, Palitana and Udwar (near Vapi, Gujarat)
5. Paonta Saheb and Jwalaji (Himachal Pradesh)
6. Mata Vaishno Devi (Jammu & Kashmir)
7. Sringeri and Gulbarga (Karnataka)
8. Guruvayur (Kerala)
9. Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh)

10. Shirdi, Nanded and Jyotirbah (Maharashtra)
11. Jagannath Puri (Orissa)
12. Amritsar, Anandpur Saheb (Punjab)
13. Ajmer Shareef (Rajasthan)
14. Rameswaram (Tamil Nadu)
15. Badrinath and Haridwar
16. Barsana-Nandgaon-Gokul-Mathura-Brindavan-Gowardhan
17. Sravasti/Kushinagar (Uttar Pradesh).

The updating of this list is done from time to time.

Identification and development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/U.T. Governments. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance for development of tourism infrastructure on the basis of specific project proposals received from the States /U.T. Governments and the availability of funds:

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Does not arise.

[English]

Performance of World Bank/Externally Aided Projects

2588. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI:

SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of World Bank and other externally aided projects implemented or being implemented in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of these projects for the last three years in terms of target set and achievement made;

(c) if so, the State-wise outcome thereof and reasons for sluggish performance and less utilisation of aid in some States/sectors;

(d) the details of fresh initiatives taken during 1996-97, 1997-98 and proposed for 1998-99 for effective and efficient utilisation of external assistance, both at Central and State level;

(e) the details of World Bank and other external assistance available for various programmes during the current year, State-wise; and

(f) the projects sent by various State Governments for approval of the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The project-wise details of World Bank and other externally aided projects implemented since First Five