

1	2	3
59.	Tirunelveli (Tirunelveli-Kattabomman) <i>Tripura</i>	930
60.	Bodhjung Nagar (Tripura-West) <i>Uttar Pradesh</i>	50
61.	Bachouli-Buzurg (Jhansi)	50
62.	Banthara (Shahjahnpur)	50
63.	Chaudharpur (Moradabad)	50
64.	Dibiapur (Etawah)	50
65.	Khurja (Bulandshahr)	420
66.	Mungra Satharia (Jaunpur)	450
67.	Sahjanwa (Gorakhpur)	1000
*68.	Shivrajpur-Padampur (Pauri-Garhwal) <i>West Bengal</i>	50
69.	Bolpur (Birbhum)	50
70.	Jalpaiguri (Jalpaiguri)	50
71.	Malda (Malda)	50

* Project Reports/revised Project Reports are awaited from the State Governments.

[English]

Tourism in J & K

2788. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether tourism have suffered very much in J & K during insurgency period;

(b) if so, whether the degree of annual losses has since been ascertained;

(c) if so, the quantum of loss suffered during each of the last three years;

(d) the details of action plan prepared, if any to restore the tourism industry to its earlier glory;

(e) whether tourists have started visiting J & K keeping in view the change brought about in the situation there during the last two years and if so, to what extent; and

(f) the details of plans formulated to attract foreign tourists in Ladakh region also?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) to (c) The tourist traffic to Kashmir Valley declined heavily during insurgency period. However, the pilgrim tourist traffic to Vaishnodevi has been increasing every year. The degree of losses suffered by the tourism industry in Kashmir Valley can be judged from the extent of decline in tourist traffic. The details are as given below:

Year	Number of Tourists			% decline as compared to 1989
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	
1989	490215	67762	557977	-
1993	-	8026	8026	99
1994	500	9314	9814	98
1995	322	8198	8520	98
1996	375	9592	9967	98
1997	7027	9111	16138	97
1998			11185	

(Five Months total of foreign and domestic tourists).

(d) The action plan to restore the industry includes restoration and renovation of tourist attractions and infrastructure facilities, revival of tourism industry through relief measures including waiving off of borrowings upto Rs. 50,000.

(e) The tourist traffic to J & K registered a positive growth of 1.3% during 1997 as compared to 1996. The tourist arrivals in J & K during 1996 and 1997 were 4482072 and 4540387 respectively. In the Kashmir Valley by the end of May 1998 the estimated number of tourist arrivals is 11,185.

(f) Various projects/schemes sanctioned during last three years for the development of tourism in Ladakh region include the refurbishment of Pethub Monastery at Leh, meditation facility in the International Health Centre at Choglamsar at Leh, renovation of Gompas at Hemis and construction of a tourist complex at Nubra. The Government has also taken steps to undertake a feasibility study for the establishment of a Convention/Conference Centre at Leh. In addition, central financial assistance has been provided for the Ladakh Festival.

Commission to remove backwardness in Eastern UP

2789. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had appointed a Commission in 60s to suggest ways and means to remove backwardness in some of the Eastern Uttar Pradesh districts like Jaunpur;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations of the commission that were to be implemented by the Union Government;

(c) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations and the reasons for not implementing the recommendations of the Commission;

(d) whether those districts are still backward; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (e) On the recommendations of the two working groups set up in 1968, the Planning Commission in consultation with the Financial Institutions and State Governments identified 246 districts as industrially backward and made them eligible for Concessional Finance facilities.

Three major Schemes namely -

- (i) Transport Subsidy Scheme;
- (ii) The Central Investment Subsidy Scheme; and
- (iii) Concessional Finance Scheme were introduced to extend a number of concessions/incentives for industries to be set up in the selected notified district/areas. The schemes at Serial No. (ii) & (iii) have since expired while the Scheme at Serial No. (i) viz. Transport Subsidy Scheme is still operative in the notified areas.

Jaunpur district in Uttar Pradesh was in the Category 'A' of the specified backward districts. Jaunpur district attracted the benefits of the Central Investment Subsidy Scheme and Concessional Finance Scheme. The Transport Subsidy Scheme is not available to Jaunpur district.

However, under the Growth Centre Scheme, 1988, a Growth Centre in Mungra Satharia of Jaunpur district has been sanctioned in January 1993 and is being implemented by the State Government of U.P.

By a Notification dated 7th October, 1997, the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, Central Board of Direct Taxes has specified 53 backward districts in Category 'A' and 70 backward districts in Category 'B' to give benefit under Section 80IA of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961) to the industries to be set up in these notified backward areas. Jaunpur district falls in Category 'B'.

The overall development of the State including the backward districts/areas is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Central Government supplements their efforts to the extent possible.

Promotion of Jute Products

2790. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATIL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to promote jute production and jute products;

(b) if so, the schemes introduced by the Government in that direction;

(c) whether any new scheme is proposed to be implemented by the Government for increase in the jute production and to promote jute products;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of States where these schemes are being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (d) Government has taken a number of steps to promote production of both jute and jute products. The steps taken to encourage raw jute production are as under :

- (1) Fixation of minimum support price of raw jute in various jute/mesta growing states.
- (2) Entrusting Jute Corporation of India to carry out price support operations for protecting interest of growers.
- (3) Implementation of Special Jute Development Programme in 47 districts of 7 jute and 1 mesta growing states.

For promotion of jute products, Government has taken the following steps :

1. Continuation of cost plus purchases of jute bags for packing foodgrains procured on Government account.
2. Grant of External Market Assistance on selected thrust items of jute exports.
3. Introduction of Jute Entrepreneurs Assistance Scheme to help entrepreneurs in promotion of their jute diversification activities.
4. Implementation of UNDP assisted National Jute Programme for diversification, research and development and HRD activities.
5. Participation of Jute Manufacturers Development Council in International Trade Fairs and Exhibitions.

(e) The above mentioned steps and schemes are being implemented in all jute and mesta growing states of the country, as well as in the states producing jute goods.