

(d) As in other areas the Jute Corporation of India had started procurement in Assam & North Bengal from end of July, 1997. 1.84 lakh bales were purchased at 32 departmental purchase Centres of Jute Corporation of India in North Bengal. In Assam & Meghalaya 1.71 lakh bales of Jute were procured at 26 Departmental Purchase Centres of JCI

Loans to Sugar Mills

2558. SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the sugar mills which were given Licence in Maharashtra during the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plans have not received loan as yet;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the loan is likely to be provided to the said sugar mills?

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 information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Adequate Facilities to Foreign Tourists

2559. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government have received complaints that the foreign tourists are reluctant to visit India due to non-availability of adequate facilities here;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any specific scheme to provide adequate facilities to the foreign tourists;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government are aware of the fleecing of innocent tourists at the IGS airport by the touts and the agents of illegal tourist offices operating in the city; and

(f) if so, the safety measures taken/being taken by the Government to check the activities of the touts and agents of such illegal tourist offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) All the major airports are undergoing upgradation to provide better free and paid facilities.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Ministry of Tourism has held discussions with Airports Authority of India, Delhi Police and other concerned authorities to regulate the activities of "touts" and agents of unscrupulous establishments.

[English]

Agreement with Japan

2560. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to an agreement signed by the Ambassador of Japan with Secretary of his Ministry, Japan is likely to spend Rs. 4,157 crores as a loan for 10 specific projects in India;

(b) if so, the details of the terms and conditions to repay the loan;

(c) the details of those 10 specific projects; and

(d) the States in which these projects are likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Exchange of Notes were signed between the Finance Secretary and the Ambassador of Japan to India on 31.10.1997 for 10 projects under Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund's 1997-98 loan package.

(b) The repayment of the loan will be 20 years after the grace period of 10 years. The rate of interest would be 2.3% per annum for general projects and 2.1 % per annum for environment related projects.

(c) and (d) :

Name of Project	Amount (Yen million)	State
1	2	3
(1) Simhadri and Vizag Transmission System Project	10,629	A.P.
(2) Srisailem Left Bank Power Station Project (III)	14,499	A.P.
(3) Dhauliganga Hydro- electric Power Plant Construction Project (II)	16,316	U.P.
(4) Bakreswar Thermal Power Station Project (II)	34,151	W.B.