

scription of adequate safeguards in ready forward transactions, streamlining the functioning of Public Debt Offices in RBI and the Portfolio Management Scheme operations of banks, strict enforcement of rules regarding use of Bank Receipts, issue of guidelines regarding inter-bank securities transactions, laying down norms by individual banks for dealing with approved brokers and review of internal control systems in banks.

Asian Financial Crisis Impact on Tourism

1650. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian financial crisis had its impact on tourism activities world-wide with growth rate suffering a setback in 1997;

(b) if so, whether in 1996 there was an increase of 5.5% in international tourism;

(c) if so, whether in 1997-98 there was a great setback in the growth rate;

(d) to what extent it affected the Indian tourist industry; and

(e) the steps being considered by the Government to improve the tourists arrival during 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) to (d) According to WTO, there was much smaller growth 2.8% in international tourist arrivals during 1997 worldwide in comparison to the growth of 5.6% in international tourist arrivals during 1996 due to the financial crisis in Asia. The tourism receipts during 1997 also showed a declining trend. The growth of international tourism receipts reduced from 8.1% in 1996 to 2.2% during 1997. According to the WTO forecast, this setback will influence tourism worldwide over at least the next three years. The tourist arrivals in India also recorded a lower growth of 3.8% in 1997 as compared to 7.7% in 1996 due to various reasons including Asian financial crisis.

(e) Steps being taken to improve the tourist arrivals include improvement of infrastructural facilities, diversification of tourism products, strengthening of publicity efforts and sustained human resources development.

[Translation]

NTC Showrooms

1651. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are very few NTC Showrooms in each state as a result thereof textiles manufactured by NTC Mills are not sold wholly; and

(b) if so, the State-wise, number of NTC Showrooms opened so far and the action being taken by the Government to open more NTC Showrooms?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) NTC has 361 showrooms located in different States as indicated in the enclosed Statement. Considering that the cloth of NTC is sold through other channels including dealers, wholesalers, sub-wholesalers, etc. and that NTC has been reducing its uneconomic weaving activities and there is cessation of activities due to shortage of working capital, the number of showrooms under NTC are considered adequate and there is no proposal to open any more showrooms.

Statement

Statewise List of Showrooms

State	No. of Showrooms
Andhra Pradesh	26
Karnataka	22
Kerala	18
Chandigarh (Union Territory)	2
Delhi	16
Haryana	8
Jammu & Kashmir	2
Punjab	5
Rajasthan	10
Gujarat	8
Daman & Diu (Union Territory)	1
Madhya Pradesh	10
Maharashtra	26
Tamil Nadu	62
Pondicherry (Union Territory)	1
Uttar Pradesh	46
Assam	3
Bihar	24
Meghalaya	1
Orissa	7
West Bengal	63
	361