

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAL LAL KHURANA) : No, Sir.

(b) The number of foreign tourists who visited Jaisalmer during the last three years are as follows :-

1995	48,001
1996	49,486
1997	51,465 (Est.)

(c) The responsibility of developing the overall facilities and tourist dedicated infrastructure in Jaisalmer rests with the State Government. Ministry of Tourism supports projects proposed in this regard by the Government of Rajasthan subject of financial procedures and availability of resources. Jaisalmer, along with other destination in Rajasthan and the country gets due priority in promotion and publicity efforts of the Government of India Tourist Offices in India and abroad.

#### Excise Evasion by Cosmetics Manufacturers

1584. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been taken against some leading manufacturers of cosmetics for excise evasion during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Directors of these companies have since arrested; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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) to (d) Upto date information is not readily available. The same is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Action Plans for Development of Tourism

1585. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) number of action plans included in Eighth Five Year Plan for promotion and development of tourism in West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya and Sikkim, separately;

(b) the amount allocated for this purpose, State-wise;

(c) the achievements made in this regard, State-wise;

(d) the steps beign taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) the details of ongoing Centrally sponsored tourism projects in the country, State-wise?

THE MINSITER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) to (e) The Action Plans for the development of tourism in each State is prepared and implemented by respective State Governments. The Union Ministry of Tourism however, provides financial assistance for the implementation of specific projects received from them subject to availability of funds. The number of such project sanctioned in the States of West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya and Sikkim alongwith details of amount sanctioned/released and number of projects ongoing are given below:-

State	No. of Projects		Amount	
	Sanctioned	Ongoing	Sanctioned	Released
			(Rs. in Lakhs)	
West Bengal	35	25	726.42	307.66
Assam	25	19	437.37	184.41
Meghalaya	10	07	110.36	43.39
Sikkim	26	17	321.79	194.31

[Translation]

#### Export of Leather Items

1586. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have chalked out any plan to promote the export of leather items;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has chalked out plans to promote the export of leather products.

National Leather Development Programme was