

(b) if so, whether the Governments have formulated any action plan to improve the condition of these tourist places;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the above action plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The development of specific tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments as most of the delivery systems are within their control. The Union Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance under various schemes for the improvement of facilities at tourist places based on specific proposals received from the State Governments and availability of funds. These schemes include development of pilgrim centres, refurbishment of monuments, tourist complexes, yatri niwasas, wayside amenities, etc.

[English]

Tourism Policy

1567. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared the long awaited Tourism Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features of the Policy; and

(c) The contemplated target fixed under the new policy for the ensuing three years as against achievements made during each of the last three years, till date?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Financial Irregularities in CCI

1568. SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of

the financial irregularities/bungling at a large scale in Cement Corporation of India from 1984 to 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted to fix the responsibilities;

(d, if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Certain incidents of financial irregularities have been brought to the notice of the Government.

(b) to (f) Government has conducted an enquiry and prima facie fixed responsibility. Departmental action is being taken against some officials of CCI.

Increase in Foreign Debt

1569. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have paid more amount as against the pre-estimated amount in respect of repayment of foreign debt due to devaluation of rupee during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details of the pre-estimated dues alongwith the amount of interest accrued thereon, separately;

(c) the actual amount of foreign debt due for payment and the interest thereon, separately, due to devaluation of rupee; and

(d) the plan of the Government to repay the debt and to avoid burden of more debt?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Against repayment of Principal of External loans of Rs. 7464.45 crore during 1997-98 in the budget estimates, the actual repayment was Rs. 6885.50 crore in the revised estimates.

(c) The amount of repayment of principal of external loans on government account and interest pay-