

(e) if so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the time limit fixed for implementation of the Supreme Court's directions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) S.E.C.L. has acquired land for coal and mining of village Dhelwadih (not Telwadih), Bhejinara and Manikpur (not Makatipur) of Bilaspur and Birsampur of Ambikapur.

(b) As reported by Coal India Limited, no such agreement has been signed between SECL and the land owners.

(c) to (f) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b) above.

[English]

#### Market Borrowing by State Governments

1607. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has decided to offer State Governments more flexibility in their market borrowing programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State Governments gross market borrowings during 1997-98 in comparison to 1996-97; and

(d) the extent to which the flexibility in market borrowing schemes is likely to help State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the flexible approach for borrowing, State Governments would be provided the option for raising an part of the amount allocated to individual States, in the range of 5 per cent (minimum) and 35 per cent (maximum) on an optional basis for the fiscal year 1998-99.

(c) The gross market borrowings of State Governments for 1997-98 as compared to 1996-97 are:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Amount
1996-97	Rs. 6,536
1997-98	Rs. 7,749

(d) The flexibility in market borrowing would provide, freedom to State Governments in regard to, inter-alia, timing, interest and maturity.

#### Lumbini-98 Festival at Visakhapatnam

1608. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three-day Lumbini festival was organised by the Department of Tourism on March 11, 1998 at Buddhist sites near Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, whether a national seminar/problems and prospects for development of tourism potential of Buddhist heritage sites in Andhra Pradesh was organised by the State Government and Department of Archaeology;

(c) if so, whether the 17 Buddhist have been identified for historical and cultural Buddhist monuments in the State which are located in North Coastal Andhra;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government is also considering these sites and make them tourist centres to attract more tourists in the area of Visakhapatnam; and

(e) if so, by when the Government is likely to provide assistance for development of these centres as tourist spots?

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

(c) to (e) The identification and development to tourist sites is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Department of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance on the basis of specific proposals received and availability of funds.

The Union Ministry of Tourism has provided funds, for the development of various Buddhist sites in Andhra Pradesh. The details of assistances sanctioned during the last two years are as given below.

S. No.	Project	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. Lakhs)
1.	Water Sports Equipment, Hussain Sagar	26.00
2.	Lumbini Festival	1.25
3.	Launches for Nagarjuna Sagar	75.00
4.	Yatrinivas, Nagarjuna Sagar	35.00
5.	High Mast Lighting at Araku	8.70