

(d) BIFR has sanctioned a scheme for revival of the mill vide order dated 17.2.98.

[*Translation*]

Packages for Tourists in Bihar

5550. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BAINDA:

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce small 'tourist package' for places like Sarnath, Bodhgaya, Ajanta, Sanchi etc;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said tourist packages are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (c) Package tours are mainly prepared and sold by tour operators. Some State Tourism Development Corporations also offer packages for tourists. Ministry of Tourism provides information and runs publicity campaigns.

[*English*]

Package for Energy Sector

5551. PROF. P. J. KURIEN:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared a package for the energy sector after review of other related Ministries;

(b) if so, whether a sinking fund to the tune of Rs. 4,200 crores for coal has been set by the Government for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details of this package;

(d) whether the Government propose to make amendments to the Nationalisation Act; and

(e) if so, the time by which the Act is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) In so far as Ministry of Coal is concerned, no package for the energy sector has been cleared by the Government to provide any benefit to the coal industry including any Sinking Fund.

(c) Does not arise in view of the answer to parts (a) and (b) of the question.

(d) No decision to introduce a Bill in the Parliament to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 has been taken.

(e) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (d) of the question.

Tourist Circuits in Uttarakhand

5552. SHRIMATI RANI CHITRALEKHA BHONSLE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan for creation of more tourist circuits in Uttarakhand area of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said plan is proposed to be implemented in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism has identified the following tourist circuits pilgrim centres in Uttarakhand area of Uttar Pradesh:

1. Badrinath.
2. Rishkesh, Narendra Nagar, Gangotri, Badri Nath.

The projects identified by Ministry of Tourism for financial assistance in Uttarakhand area for 1998-99 include the following:

1. Accommodation at Auli;
2. Parling places at Janaki Chatti and Hanuman Chatti;
3. Yatri Niwas at Chiniyalisaur;
4. Tourist huts at Gangotri and Yamunotri;
5. Yatri Niwas at Gauchar;
6. Reception Centre at Srinagar;
7. Yatri Niwas at Guptkashi;
8. Equipment for River Rafting in Mahakali Ganga River;
9. Eco-Tourism/Garbage disposal facilities;
10. Festivals;
11. Publicity support.

Foreign Banks

5553. SHRI S. S. OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals pending with the Government for opening of foreign banks in the near future;

(b) whether the performance of these banks has been reviewed by the RBI from time to time in comparison to the Indian Nationalised Banks; and

(c) 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) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that applications of two foreign banks for a branch each in India are pending.