

these schemes has not been prepared as yet.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Khajuraho is an international tourist spot in Chattarpur district. A Boeing service is operating from Delhi to Varanasi via Khajuraho. There was a small office of the Department of Tourism there. Few Days ago that office was closed down for unknown reasons. Do you have any information to this effect that the said tourist office has been closed down at such an important place? I want to know whether the Government has any proposal to reopen it ?

SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK: I do not have any knowledge about it. I thank you for giving me this information. I will look into this matter.

SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, issue of tourism was raised there earlier also. The question of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Gujarat was also raised here. Everytime the Government replies that it has no money no funds and no budget. The Railway had no money and it had raised money from the public by floating a company. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government's considering or will consider to set up any company on these lines to raise money for the development of tourism all over India?

[*English*]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Several Members from various States have been asking questions about developing tourist facilities. I just want to give some small information, Sir, if you permit. Altogether, what we have in India is that we have a total of about 30 million tourists, out of which 1.5 million tourists are coming from abroad, and 28.5 are domestic tourists who are travelling from one place to another. It is our intention to develop the infra-structural facilities for all the States, for domestic tourism and also for foreign tourism. In many cases, the infrastructure is the same. What I would like to indicate is that the budget at the disposal of the Central Government is very re-

stricted.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: I have asked the question in Hindi, You should reply in Hindi.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister can speak in English, you can use earphone for Hindi version. You should not raise the question of language.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: You need not use earphone. I shall answer in Hindi.

MR. SPEAKER: Now he is speaking in Hindi.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: All the State Governments have their own budgets and the central Government will support all the schemes concerning tourism which will be sponsored by the State Governments. But at present there is an allocation of Rs. 70 crore in the entire seventh Five Year Plan out of which Rs. 16 crore are for the State Governments. Therefore, all the Schemes will be presented before the central Government by the State Governments. Then Central Government will sanction them keeping in view the funds available. The Central Government is conducting a survey for tourist schemes in Andaman and Nicobar Islands but there are environmental and some other problems. Since tourism has developed in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and we want that it should become a tourist spot in future the Government will try its best to develop it.

[*English*]

New Format of Accounts of Public Sector Banks

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*989. **SHRI PRAKASH KOKO
BRAHMBHATT:
SHRI N.J. RATHVA:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the Reserve Bank of India to improve the internal supervision and control system of public sector banks and also prepare a new format for 'greater transparency' in their annual accounts data;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the RBI has also directed the banks to examine the proposal of bringing of public sector banks and financial institutions under the control of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India;

(d) the extent to which new format of annual accounts data will be helpful in carrying out the accounts; and

(e) the time by which the new format is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is vested with well defined powers to exercise supervision and control over commercial banks.

The banks prepare their Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss Accounts in the formats as prescribed in the Third Schedule of the Banking Regulation Act. Government in consultation with Reserve Bank of India have decided to amend these formats, in phases which would inter alia provide for greater transparency in the accounts of the banks. The modalities in this regard are being worked out.

In terms of the statutes governing the public sector banks, their accounts are to be audited by the auditors who are qualified to act as auditors of a company under the Companies Act, 1956. The desirability of bringing the public sector banks within the purview of the Comptroller and Auditor

General of India is being examined in the consultation with the Reserve Bank of India.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I felt the need to raise this question here because from the Balance sheet and profit and Loss Accounts of the banks nobody can have an idea of the amount of loans which are not to be realised from back date. What are the steps the Reserve Bank of India propose to take in the regard? If the Government has decided to amend these formats in various phases, what are these various phases and what are the points included in it?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in the statement which I have laid on the Table that till today formats of accounts of all banks are prepared as prescribed in the Third Schedule of the Banking Regulation act. In this regard the Ghosh Committee was constituted. The particular point referred to by the hon. Member was also referred to by the Ghosh Committee. The opinion of the Committee was that in independent and democratic India, all details about the bank accounts should be placed before the public. Certain things about bank accounts spread everywhere. Therefore, there should be more openness about income from bank accounts and there should be indication about the number of back date. In addition to it, this information should be given in the formats as to how many persons have been given concession. These suggestions were given by the Ghosh Committee. The Government will take final decision after having consultations with the Reserve Bank of India.

SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, efficiency of banks is decreasing and corruption is increasing these days what steps will be taken by the Reserve Bank of India to check corruption and by what time will the Government put an end to it?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr.

Speaker, Sir, this question is related to the format of bank accounts, but as he has raised the question of corruption, I think that the change we want to bring in the format, will also be related to the checking of corruption. We will take multi-pronged action to check corruption. Recently, There was an article on corruption, in which it was stated that those who wanted to do bungling or forgery in the banks, had come to realise that an act of fraud was better and more gainful than that of robbery. I think that in view of this situation we will take appropriate action. Necessary changes will be carried out in the rules and in the format. It will be helpful in rooting out corruption.

Teicast/Broadcast of Richas (Mantras) of Vedas on Doordarshan/Air

*990. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to telecast and broadcast the Richas (Mantras) from Vedas in devotional music programmes in the morning transmission;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in regard to the significance of Vedas for common people; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to conduct such a survey?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). At present, there is no such proposal. However, some of the All India Radio Stations include Vedic recitation in their programmes of devotional music. Songs of devotional nature in Semi-Classical or classical style are also telecast in the morning transmission of Doordarshan.

(c) No, Sir; and

(c) No, Sir.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting through you that more than 86 per cent population of this country has unflinching faith in the Vedas. Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, who was the first commentator on Vedas and the first votary of nationalism, had said that all the Vedas are the books of true learning. Yogiraj Sri Aurobindo had also accepted this fact. Our culture, religion, traditions, legacy, knowledge, science and music, all have originated from the Vedas. Since no importance has been given to the Richas of the Vedas on Doordarshan and AIR, I would like to know whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that the very word 'Vedas' means the treasure of knowledge? Is it also not a fact that the Government of India has recognised the Vedas not only as a religious text, but also as a source of knowledge and on the basis of this recognition, the Government has set up a Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratishthan?

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: In view of this recognition, is it not the duty of the Ministry to disseminate the knowledge as contained in the Vedas to the people? Is it not necessary to publicised it for this very reason also that the Vedas are the origin of many cultural sects of our country?

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: As a matter of policy, AIR and Doordarshan do not encourage ritualistic religious broadcasts by the stations. However, in pursuance of their policy, that programmes should help strengthen the moral fibre of the people, AIR and TV draw upon the experience of the people and the followers of all the religions of India, and use extracts from the sacred literatures. This endeavour is reflected in the musical and spoken words programmes.