

**World Bank Loan for Projects  
in West Bengal**

\*93. SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to lay a statement showing :

(a) the total amount given to West Bengal for various projects from the amount received from the World Bank before 1977 and after ;

(b) the rate of interest payable to World Bank for the loan received by the Centre ; and

(c) the rate of interest the Centre is charging from the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN) : (a) West Bengal has received an amount of Rs. 120 lakhs before 1977 on Bank assisted projects. From 1977 to December, 1979 the State has received Rs. 735.79 lakhs and thereafter Rs. 2671.74 lakhs till 31-3-81.

(b) The IBRD charges a rate of interest which is linked with its borrowings from the World Capital Markets and is currently 10.6 per cent per annum. The credits received from the IDA carry no interest but it levies a service charge of 0.75 per cent on the amount disbursed and outstanding.

(c) Additional Central assistance on account of externally aided projects is given to the State Government as 30 per cent grant and 70 per cent loan. The interest on the loan portion varies in accordance with the uniform rate for Central Government loans fixed from time to time and was 5½ per cent prior to 1-6-81 and is now 6½ per cent. A rebate of ¼ per cent is allowed for timely repayment.

**Steps to attract Tourists**

\*94. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state :

(a) what steps have been taken to attract more tourists to this country; and

(b) whether he is aware that 15 much smaller countries in the 3rd world—including Singapore—did much better than India last year ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A.P. SHARMA) : (a) Promotion of tourism is a continuous process. The Department of Tourism undertakes extensive publicity in the major tourist generating markets of the world. Tourism promotion overseas is channelled through 18 Tourist Offices and 7 Tourist Promotion Managers located at vantage points in USA, Europe, Australia, Middle East and Japan. The Govt. of India Tourist Offices overseas undertake publicity and promotion by way of advertising through newspapers, magazines, TV and Radio. They also hold Sales Seminars for the staff of travel agencies and airlines in the countries within the area of their jurisdiction. The Tourist Offices also give information and distribute tourist publicity literature, besides screening of promotional films, organising India Evenings and participation in fairs and exhibitions.

In addition the Department also has a programme to invite foreign travel agents, travel writers, photographers, TV/film producers to visit the country so as to promote tourist traffic to India. These visits enable them to experience at first hand the tourist attractions of this country and facilities available at the various centres. The media publicises these attractions by way of articles, in newspapers, magazines, holding of