

Development of Ajanta Hills

*173. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MORE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are plans to develop the areas at the foot of Ajanta hills for the purpose of providing facilities to tourists;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been formulated; and

(c) if so, whether the Government of India has agreed to sanction the entire amount required for the scheme to the Government of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government of Maharashtra in 1977 had forwarded a scheme to the Central Department of Tourism estimated at Rs. 30.00 lakhs for the development of the area at the foot of the Ajanta Caves. The Central Department of Tourism has released a sum of Rs. 7.50 lakhs to the State Government out of an amount of Rs. 9.36 lakhs sanctioned for certain components of the scheme to be financed in the Central Sector.

Income-tax Arrears of more than Rupees One Crore

*174. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) what is the total number of cases of Income-tax arrears in which arrears amount to Rs. 1 crore and above in each case;

(b) what are the names of persons or firms with Income tax arrears of more than Rs. 1 crore;

(c) how long these arrears were pending;

(d) whether any special effort has been made in realising these arrears;

(e) if so, what is the progress made in the collection of individual arrears amounting to Rs. 1 crore or more; and

(f) what further steps are contemplated for stepping up the realisations of these arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) There were 40 taxpayers against each of whom gross income-tax demand of Rs. 1 crore or above was outstanding on 31-3-79.

(b), (c) and (e). A statement giving the names of the tax-payers against each of whom gross income-tax demand of Rs. 1 crore or above was outstanding as on 31-3-79, along with the tax in arrears and the tax not fallen due in each case, the earliest and the latest financial year during which these demands were raised, and the collection/reduction made in each of these cases out of these arrears upto 31-12-70 (latest available periods in respect of cases at Sl. Nos. 33 to 40 where the information as on 31-12-79 is still due) is attached.

(d) and (f). Primarily, the assessing officer is required to take specific measures, as provided in law, for recovery of income-tax arrears, depending upon the facts of each case. However, a close supervision is exercised by the Inspecting Assistant Commissioners/Commissioners of Income-tax. The Central Board of Direct Taxes, through the Directorate of Recovery, monitors the progress of recovery in these cases through quarterly dossiers received from the Commissioners. Suitable instructions, where necessary, are issued to accelerate the recovery. Amongst others, wherever substantial demands are disputed, steps have been taken to get the disposal of appeals/references expedited by the concerned appellate authorities/courts. These steps are proposed to be continued and further intensified for stepping up the realisation of these arrears.