ला से हो कर खोला जा सकता हैं और वर्ष 1994 से लद्दाख, जम्मू व कश्मीर से हो कर डेमचोक मार्ग का भी प्रस्ताव किया गया हैं । चीन वालों ने दशार्या हैं कि विकल्प मार्गों के लिए हमारे प्रस्ताव तिब्बती स्वायत्त क्षेत्रों (टी0 ए0 आर0) में स्थानीय प्राधिकारियों के विचाराधीन हैं । उन्होंने, जमीन पर नए मार्ग खोलने में परेशानी बताई हैं क्योंकि इसमें, मैदानी इलाकों में खराब सड़क अवस्था और आवास व संचार हेतु उचित आधारित संरचना के अभाव में काफी लम्बी दूरी तय करनी शामिल हैं । उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि इन दूरवर्ती क्षेत्रों में आधारित संरचना का विकास करना कोई आसान कार्य नहीं हैं और विकल्प मार्गों के लिए सुविधाओं का निर्माण करने में बहुत समय लग सकता हैं । भारत की तरफ से डेमचोक (लद्दाख) से मार्ग के बारे में भी चीनी प्राधिकारियों ने बताया कि कैलाश मानसरोवर की ओर जाने वाला चीनी मार्ग एक मिलिटरी मार्ग हैं और इसे तीर्थ यात्रियों के लिए खोला जाना मुश्किल हैं ।

Issue of Liberal Visas to Foreign Tourists

1237. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken various fresh initiatives, policy decisions including system reforms in issue of liberal visas to the visiting foreign tourists to develop and promote tourism industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith proposals under consideration;

(c) the details of action plan finalised for the current year and Nith Plan period for tourists destinations and likely impact thereof; and

(d) the details of proposals cleared pending for Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY *Of* TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Govern-meia of India follows libera) policy regarding grant of visa to foreign ""tourists. All Indian Missioins abroad have been delegated powers to issue six months multiple entry visa to foreign tourists. Generally such visas are issued' on the same day Ten Years Tourist visa for U.S. national only has also been introduced recently on reciprocal basis with the stipulation that stay during each visit shall not exceed 180 days.

(c) and (d) Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments, However, on the specific request of the State Government of Maharashtra, the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs 169.84 lakhs for 12 projects in 1997-98. During the current financial year, 10 projects have been prioritised for Maharashtra. No proposal is pending clearance in the Ministry of Tourism.

Computerised link between Darjecling-Kalimpong-Kurscon Siliguri

1238. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no computerised link between Darjeeling-Kalimpong-Kurseong and Siliguri as a result of which tourists are facing problems in reservations;

(b) whether it is also a fact that for want of computerised network foreign tourists are facing problems to reserve accommodations in advance; and

(c) the action proposed by Government to solve the problem for promotion of tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) Computerised reservation facilities are already available at Siliguri and provision of such facilities at Darjeeling will be considered by the Ministry of Railways for inclusion in the Annual Plan 1999-2000 subject to feasibility and availability of funds-fresources. Computerised reservation facilities are capital intensive and also necessitate significant recurring costs. The reservation workload at Kalimpong and Kurseong is not of sufficiently high order to warrant this level of investment at present.

(b) and (c). A project has been undertaken for networking of the five systems of Calcutta, Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi and Secunderabad. The software for networking has already been developed. The first

phase of the project has been successfully completed by linking Delhi, Secun-derabad and Calcutta systems. With this, passengers will also be able to get onward and return journey reservation across all the computerised terminals by all trains originating on Northern North-Eastern, South-Eastern, Northeast Frontier and Sourth Central Railways. It is expected that the whole networking project would 'be completed by March, 1999 by linking Mumbai and Chennai also.

West Bengal government has also proposed to set up computerised link between Delhi-Calcutta or Chenai Calcutta for advance booking in all Tourist Lodges operated by West Bengal Tourism.

बिहार में पर्यटन के विकास संबंधी प्रस्ताव

1239. **श्रीमती सरोज दुबे :** क्या पर्यटन मंत्री यी बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत दो वर्षों के दौरान 30 नवम्बर, 1998 तक केन्द्रीय सरकार को मिले उन प्रस्तावों का ब्यौरा क्या हैं जिनमें बिहार में पर्यटन के विकास के लिए अनुरोध किया गया हैं,

(ख) कितने प्रस्तावों को स्वीकृति दे दी गई हैं और कितने प्रस्ताव अस्वीकृत कर दिए गए हैं और कितने प्रस्ताव अभी भी विचाराधीन हैं, और

(ग) प्रत्येक प्रस्ताव को किन-किन कारणों से अस्वीकृत किया गया हैं ?

पर्यटन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री ओमाक अपांक) : (क) से (ग) पर्यटन का विकास करना मुख्यतया राज्य सरकार की जिम्मेदारी हैं । केन्द्रीय पर्यटन मंत्रालय, राज्य सरकारों को प्रत्येक वर्ष, दिशा-निर्देशों और धन की उपलब्धता के अनुसार विशिष्ट योजना प्रस्तावों के आधार पर वित्तीय सहायता महैया करता हैं।

वर्ष 1997-98 के दौरान, बिहार को 10 परियोजनाओं के लिए 233.07 लाख रु0 की राशि स्वीकृत की गई थी। इन परियोजनाओं में – पर्यटक परिसर, मार्गस्थ सुख-सुविधाएं पर्यटक स्थलों और मेलों तथा उत्सवों का विकास और सौदर्यीकरण करना शामिल हैं। बोधगया में स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र खोलने सम्बन्धी 40 लाख रुपए की एक परियोजना थी, चूंकि यह मार्गदर्शी सिद्धान्तों के अनुरूप नहीं थी । अतः इसे स्वीकार नहीं किया गया।

वर्ष 1998-99 के लिए, केन्द्रीय पर्यटन मंत्रालय ने 325 लाख रु0 राशि की 12 परियोजनाओं को प्राथमिकता प्रदान की हैं । यह केन्द्रीय वित्तीय सहायता, राज्य सरकार से पूर्ण परियोजना प्रस्तावों के प्राप्त होने पर रिलीज (अवमुक्त) कर दी जाएगी।

Income From Tourism from the North-Eastern Region

1240. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total income earned by Government from the tourism sector in the North-eastern region;

(b) whether it is a fact that discriminatory attitude has been adopted by Government with regard to development of the tourist places in North-eastern region;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) The tax revenue earned by the Central Government by way of expenditure tax during 1997-98 is Rs 277.91 crores. However, the figure is not available separately for North-Eastern Region.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Minister of Tourism has initiated several measures for the development of tourism in the North Eastern States including increased assistance for infrastructure development enhanced publicity of tourist attractions of the region and intensive product development . A minimum of 10 per cent of the plan budget of the Ministry has been ear-marked for North Eastern region and financial assistance of Rs. 1217.72 lakhs was sanctioned during 1997-98 for the implementation of various projects in the region.