

Production of Silk in North-Eastern Region

878. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the details of the steps taken in the preceeding five years to promote production, processing and trading of silk in Assam and other States of North-Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): In Order to supplement efforts of the State Sericulture Department, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a large number of schemes/projects/programmes for promoting development of all the 4 types of silk. These includes schemes for extension of R&D training, infrastructure extension support to the sector through a net work of CSB units and implementation of certain development/ investments/financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericulture practices for production of quality silk. Besides CSB also takes up specific sericulture project like World Bank assisted NSP, Action Plan for the North Eastern states etc., in association/ collaboration with the States. As far as Assam and other States of North Eastern states are concerned some of the specific projects taken up by CSB during the VHIth Five Year Plan are as follows:

(i) Under the National Sericulture Project which was implemented in two districts in Assam infrastructure facilities were created such as basic seed farms, technical service centres, Cocoon markets, demonstration cum training centre for reelers and weavers, etc.

(ii) North Eastern Action Plan covering Assam and other States of the North Eastern region in presently under implementation which provides assistance towards increase in acreage by plantation, training to farmers, reelers, setting up of cocoon training facilities and assistance for setting up of reeling units, etc. This project is being continued during the IXth Plan period.

(iii) Assistance is extended to the agencies for marketing various cocoons.

(iv) Project development and domestic marketing for Eri and Muga.

(v) Muga raw-material sale depot was set up at Guwahati.

(vi) To boost the production of silk 34 Catalytic Development Schemes have been sanctioned for the IXth Plan period.

Tourist potential in Kerala

879. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that tourist potential is very good in Kerala and it has not been fully exploited; and

(b) if so, what steps have taken to expand tourist facilities in collaboration With State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Financial assistance has been provided to the Government of Kerala for the implementation of several projects to expand tourist facilities in the State. The amounts sanctioned to the State Government during the last three years are as given below:—

Year	Amount
	(Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	209.94
1996-97	235.59
1997-98	282.00
TOTAL	727.53

राजस्थान में पुष्कर और तारागढ़ का विकास

880. श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत : क्या पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार की करोड़ों श्रद्धालुओं के आस्था का केन्द्र पुष्कर तीर्थ स्थल को पर्यटन स्थल के रूप में विकसित करने की कोई योजना है; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या ऐतिहासिक महापुरुष सम्राट पृथ्वीराज चौहान के दुर्ग तारागढ़ और अजमेर के पृथ्वीराज स्मारक को पर्यटन स्थल के रूप में विकसित करने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है; यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में क्या प्रगति हुई है; और

(ग) क्या सरकार पुष्कर में पर्यटकों के लिए “यात्रिका” का निर्माण करने का विचार रखती है

पर्यटन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री ओमाक अपांग) : (क) पुष्कर, भारत के महत्वपूर्ण तीर्थकेन्द्रों में से एक है। पर्यटक मंत्रालय ने वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान कर दी है और पुष्कर में एक पर्यटक परिसर और आवास के लिए स्वीकृति प्रदान कर दी है।

(ख) और (ग) जी, नहीं,। इस तरह का कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है।

Revenue earned by Tourism Industry

881. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned by Indian tourism industry from Indian and foreign tourist during last two years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government have identified some places for developing them as tourists centres during the last one year, if so, the names of places identified, so far state-wise;

(c) whether Government have received certain proposals/names of places from the State Governments in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of places identified for tourism in North-Eastern States?

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 1996-97 and 1997-98 is Rs. 293.23 crores and Rs. 277.91 crores respectively.

(b) to (d) The identification and development of tourist centres is primarily the responsibility of state/UT Governments. However, proposals are received from time to time for the inclusion of certain tourist centres in the circuits identified for intensive development. Such proposals were received from the State Governments of Kerala, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh during 1997-98.

The circuit consisting of Guwahati-Kaziranga-Shillong-Tawang was included during 1997-98 in the circuits for intensive development. All the centres in the circuit are in North East.

Foreign Tourists

882. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists who visited India during 1997-98, Countries-wise;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(c) whether Government have proposed any action plan to meet the target of five million tourists by the turn of the century; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) The estimated of foreign tourists who visited India from major source markets during 1997-98 were as follows:—

Country	Estimated Foreign Tourist Arrivals
U.K.	370082
Bangladesh	354906
U.S.A.	243919
Srilanka	121920
Germany	105840
Japan	99598
France	91303
Canada	78467
Malaysia	60322
Italy	53783
Singapore	51936
Australia	50581
Pakistan	45017
Netherland	44784
Nepal	43098
Switzerland	31675
Spain	22873
Others	500881
TOTAL	2370985

(b) The estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism during 1997-98 was Rs. 11263.88 crores.

(c) and (d) An Action Plan consisting of integrated infrastructure development including airports, air services, railway services, roads and road services, accommodation units, restaurants, etc., product development, human resource development and enhanced marketing efforts was prepared in 1993 for attracting five