

(b) if so, the measures taken up by Government, on a State-wise basis; and

(c) the amount of financial assistance so released by the Central Government to the States for development of infrastructure for tourism?

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

(b) and (c) The measures taken up by the Ministry of Tourism to develop tourism in the North East Region, include improvement of infrastructure facilities by extending financial assistance to State Government and providing wider publicity to tourism products of the region. The amount of financial assistance released to North Eastern States during 1997-98 is as given below:—

State	Amount Released (Rs. Lakhs)
Arunachal Pradesh	82.50
Assam	94.20
Manipur	56.35
Meghalaya	28.05
Mizoram	43.50
Nagaland	40.58
Tripura	40.16

Tourism Industry in J&K

1663. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that tourism has suffered very much in Jammu and Kashmir during the nineties;

(b) if so, whether the degree of annual losses has since been ascertained;

(c) if so, the quantum thereof in respect of each year during the last five years, year-wise; and

(d) the details of action plan, if any to restore the industry to its earlier glory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) (a) to (c) The tourist traffic to Kashmir Valley declined heavily during nineties. However, the pilgrim tourist traffic to Vaishnodevi has been increasing every year. The degree of losses suffered by the tourism industry in Kashmir Valley can be judged from the extent of decline in tourist traffic. The details are as given below:—

Year	Number of Tourists			% decline as compared to 1989
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	
1989	490215	67762	557977	—
1993	—	8026	8026	99
1994	500	9314	9814	98
1995	322	8198	8520	98
1996	375	9592	9967	98
1997	7027	9111	16138	97

(d) The action plan to restore the industry includes restoration and renovation of tourist attractions and infrastructure facilities, revival of tourism industry through relief measures including waiving off of borrowings upto Rs. 50,000%.

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: (पश्चिमी बंगाल): सर, यह महिलाओं का स्वागत है।... (व्यवधान)....
 [خیری محمد سلیم: سر۔ یہ میلادوں کا سوال ہے۔۔۔ "مداخلت"۔۔۔]
 *[]Transliteration in Arabic Script.