

सरकार द्वारा 94.00 लाख रुपये की राशि के 100 कारीगरों के लिए वर्कशेड तथा 300 कारीगरों के लिए वर्कशेड-सह-आवास के प्रस्ताव स्वीकार कर लिए गए हैं। 47.00 लाख रुपये की राशि (परियोजना लागत का 50%) पहले ही रिलीज की जा चुकी है।

लखनऊ में परिधान डिजाइनिंग संस्थान

1647. श्री मनोहर कांत ध्यानी : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने का कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या लखनऊ में एक "अप्रैल डिजाइनिंग" संस्थान की स्थापना लंबित पड़ा है,

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि उक्त प्रस्ताव के अंतर्गत फैशन डिजाइनिंग का तीन वर्षीय पाठ्यक्रम तथा परिधान निर्माण का दो पाठ्यक्रम आरंभ किया जायेगा,

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्रीय सहायता के रूप में 3.84 करोड़ रुपये की राशि राज्य को दी जानी थी, और

(घ) यदि हां, तो यह सहायता राशि कब तक उपलब्ध कराये जाने की संभावना है, यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री काशीराम राणा) : (क) से (घ) लखनऊ में निफ्ट का एक केन्द्र स्थापित करने का एक प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुआ है, जिसकी जांच की जा रही है।

1648. SHRI ASHOK MITRA:
SHRI DIPANKAR
MUKHERJEE

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for India's withdrawal from the World Jute Organisation;

(b) the likely consequence of the withdrawal on the country's export of jute and jute products; and

(c) the likely impact of the decision on raw jute prices and the level of employment in the jute industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) India decided to withdraw from International Jute Organisation since no consensus could be reached amongst IJO members for election of India candidate for the post of Executive Director IJO, following pressure from the importing countries to get their candidate elected to the post. Moreover, it was felt that IJO has of late failed to live up to its main objectives and India as a major jute growing country stands to gain more from its own diversification and R&D Programme than from IJO.

(b) and (c) IJO is primarily a research and development organisation and the withdrawal of India from IJO is not likely to have any significant impact on either the export of jute goods or the prices of raw jute or the level of employment in the jute industry.

Foreign Exchange earned from Tourists

1649. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourists arrivals during 1996 was 2.28 million showing a growth rate of 7.7% over last year and foreign exchange earning registered an increase of 21.6%; and

(b) if so, the additional steps Government are taking to encourage this industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) The international tourist arrivals in the country and the estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism during the years 1995 and 1996 are as given below:—

Year	Foreign Tourist Arrivals	% Change	Estimated foreign Exchange Earnings	% Change
1995	2123683	7.7	8633.30	16.4
1996	2287860		10049.95	

(b) Efforts being made to boost tourism industry in the country include improvement of infrastructural facilities for tourism, development of tourist attractions, strengthening of publicity and promotional efforts, human resource development and encouraging private investment.

Service Term of Former CMD, ITDC

1650. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned "Two shortlisted for ITDC top post" appearing in Business Line, dated 23rd April, 1990;

(b) if so, the reasons for not awarding another service term to former Chairman and M.D., ITDC whose performance appraisal was well appreciated by the Ministry;

(c) whether Government are considering to appoint non-professionals and controversial officials of ITDC as named in the news report; and

(d) if answer to part (c) above be in the negative the reasons therefor and justification for not extending the term of former CMD of ITDC, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The matter of awarding another term to former Chairman and Managing Director, ITDC is under examination in accordance with law and directions of the Delhi High Court.

Buddhist Pilgrims from Asian Countries

1651. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plan has been drawn up to increase the flow of Buddhist pilgrims from other Asian countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) The overseas marketing plan of the Department of Tourism, Govt. of India, gives due emphasis to tapping of the Buddhist pilgrim market segment from Asian countries by way of advertising of the Buddhist circuits in electronic and print media, familiarisation fam tours, brochures support, direct mailing and "Know India" seminars.

Inadequate Funding for Buddhist site

1652. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Buddhist sites in Visakhapatnam are hit by inadequate funding for proper conservation;

(b) if so, the reasons for neglecting the sites; and

(c) the steps proposed to safeguard the sites for tourists especially from Japan, China, Indonesia & Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (c) According to the information available from the State Government, there has not been any inadequacy of funds for the conservation of Kotturu and Sankaram. However, in the case of Bavikonda and Thotlakonda which are under the control of State Archaeology Department, the conservation/re-construction work was discontinued in 1994 due to paucity of funds. The State Government is taking steps to continue conservation and safeguard the sites for tourists.

Industrial Status to Tourism Sector

1653. PROF. RAM KAPSE:
SHRI RAMNATH KOVIND:
DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration a proposal to give industrial status to the tourism sector;