

(x) Gazipur (xi) Gonda (xii) Sitapur (xiii) Baharaich (xiv) Azamgarh (xv) Basti (Sidharthnagar) (xvi) Rai Bareilly (xvii) Gorakhpur (xviii) Sultanpur (xix) Deoria (xx) Pratapgarh (xxi) Varanasi (xxii) Kanpur (xxiii) Fatehpur (xxiv) Maou (xxv) Bhadohi (xxvi) Maharajganj (xxvii) Padrona (xxviii) Ambedkar Nagar (xxix) Kanpur Dehat.

(b) The standard staff strength of each Handicrafts Marketing and Service Extension Centre consists of one Assistant Director, one Handicrafts Promotion Officer, one Investigator, one Technical Assistant (Crafts)/Upper Division Clerk, one Lower Division Clerk and one Helper/Chowkidar.

(c) to (e) These centres have played an important role in facilitating development of handicrafts in the areas under their jurisdiction. However, keeping in view the vast areas that various centres spread all over the country have to cover, a proposal to add some more marketing centres has been initiated.

#### **Buddhist Circuit for Foreign Tourists**

3201. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are marketing the "Buddhist Circuit" for foreign tourists;

(b) if so, what specific steps have been taken to encourage foreigners to visit Buddhist shrines;

(c) whether it is a fact that famous Buddhist sites and shrines in Andhra Pradesh have not been marketed to foreign tourists; and

(d) if so, the reasons for neglecting Buddhist shrines of tourist interest in Andhra Pradesh?

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

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Tourism Govt. of India, is marketing the Buddhist

circuit in niche markets overseas through its 17 tourist offices by way of advertising in print and electronic media, dissemination of information through brochures and video cassettes, organising of 'Know India' seminars and participation in travel fairs. Promotion of Nagarjuna Konda in Andhra Pradesh is an integral part of this marketing strategy.

#### **Outstanding dues of ITDC's Hotel Division**

3202. SHRI J. CHITHARANIAN:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hotel Division under ITDC has outstanding a sum of Rs. 34.85 crore as on March 31, 1998 on account of unpaid bills by politicians and Government agencies;

(b) if so, the hotel-wise details of these outstanding dues and who are the prominent defaulters and amount outstanding against each of them; and

(c) what measures are being taken for the recovery of these dues and the measures proposed to be taken to reduce the risk of credit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) The total outstanding dues of Hotels Division as on 31 March 1998 were Rs. 34.85 crores (provisional) of which an amount of Rs. 7.60 crores was outstanding against political parties/political and Government Agencies. Hotelwise details of outstanding dues are given in Statement-I (*See below*). The details of prominent defaulters are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) Realisation of outstanding dues is a continuous process which include periodical reminders, personal contacts, periodical review both at the unit and Corporate level, seeking assistance from the administrative Ministry and resorting to