

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, India has given notice for its withdrawal from International Jute Organisation (IJO), in April, 1998.

The step was taken as no consensus could be reached amongst IJO members for election of Indian 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.

Common Facility Centres for Handicrafts in Vidarbha

117. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up Common Facility Centres with modern machinery and equipments to tap the vast potential of handicrafts in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to set up such Common Facility Centres to promote handicrafts in Vidarbha region in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Presently, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to set up such Common Facility Centre in Vidarbha region in the near future.

Revival of the National Textiles Corporation

118. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn

up any plan for the revival of the National Textiles Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC Government is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable mills of NTC, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the net worth of these mills turning positive, within the period prescribed by BIFR.

पर्यटन का विकास और विस्तार

119. श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: क्या पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने अगले दशक के दौरान देश में पर्यटन के विकास और विस्तार के लिए कोई अद्यतन योजना तैयार की है;

(ख) क्या पर्यटन उद्योग द्वारा अपेक्षित जिलों और राज्यों को प्राथमिकता देने का कोई प्रस्ताव है;

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और क्या पर्यटन के विनिर्दिष्ट क्षेत्रों को निजी पर्यटन एजेंसियों तथा संगठनों के लिए खोले जाने का कोई प्रस्ताव है; और

(घ) क्या पर्यटन नीति का पुनर्विलोकन किया जायेगा?

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री तथा पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री मदन लाल खुराना): (क) से (ग) देश में पर्यटन का विकास एवं विस्तार एक निरंतर प्रक्रिया है और आगामी दशक में पर्यटन के विकास के लिए एक राष्ट्रीय नीति तैयार की गई है। इसमें संरचना एवं उत्पाद विकास, मानव संसाधन विकास, संवर्धन एवं विपणन एवं मार्केट अनुसंधान सम्मिलित हैं। विकास की गतिविधियाँ राज्य सरकारों द्वारा हाथ में ली जाती हैं और इन गतिविधियों के लिए वित्तीय सहायता पर्यटन विभाग द्वारा, दिशानिर्देशों के अनुसार विशिष्ट प्रस्तावों के आधार पर प्रदान की जाती है। प्रयास यह है कि प्रत्येक राज्य में सभी पर्यटक केन्द्रों का केन्द्रीय एवं राज्य सरकारों और निजी क्षेत्र की सहायता से विकास हो। पर्यटन उद्योग मुख्यतया निजी क्षेत्र में है और सरकार की नीति आवश्यक सरलीकरण सेवाएं प्रदान करके होटलों, रिजॉर्टों और रेस्तरांओं आदि जैसे पर्यटन संरचना लगाने के लिए निजी क्षेत्र को प्रोत्साहन देने की है।

(घ) जी, हाँ।

Development of Tourism in Assam and Rajasthan

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

(a) the details of steps taken by Government to develop tourism in Assam and Rajasthan during the Eighth Plan;

(b) what have been the details of achievements and failures of each of these; and

(c) what are the details of steps contemplated to accelerate development of tourism?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) to (c) Development of Tourism is an ongoing process and is primarily undertaken by the State/U.T. Governments. Department of Tourism provides funds for Development of Tourism Infrastructure to the State Govts./Union Territories based on specific proposals received from them as per guidelines. During the VIIIth Plan the Deptt. of Tourism sanctioned Rs. 437.37 lakhs to Assam and Rs. 1308.04 lakhs to Rajasthan.

The Central financial assistance is used to create infrastructure such as wayside amenities, tourist complexes, tourist reception centres, refurbishment of monuments, adventure sports activities and publicity support for fairs and festivals. Such projects lead to the achievement of creating additional tourism infrastructure. Steps contemplated to accelerate development of tourism include greater focus on infrastructure development, strengthening of marketing efforts and sustained human resources development.

Encouragement to Tourism

121. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARI-BHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formu-

lated any scheme to encourage tourism in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme to encourage private sectors to invest into tourism infrastructure;

(d) whether Government propose to reduce air fares to encourage tourism; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) and (b) Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Central Department of Tourism provides Financial Assistance to the States/Union Territories every year on the basis of specific project proposals received and availability of funds.

During 1997-98, a sum of Rs. 557.05 lakhs was sanctioned to Orissa for 28 projects, Rs. 119.31 lakhs to Madhya Pradesh for 9 projects and Rs. 111.84 lakhs for 7 projects in Gujarat. These projects included, tourist complexes, tourist reception centres, wayside amenities, adventure sports facilities, SEL show and festivals.

(c) Central Government provides fiscal incentives and other incentives like the Interest Subsidy on loans to encourage private sector to invest in the Tourism Infrastructure. State Governments/Union Territories also provide various incentives under schemes operated by respective State/Union Territories.

(d) and (e) Domestic air fares are determined by the Domestic Airlines including Indian Airlines from time to time in their own commercial judgement depending upon the market conditions, cost of operations, etc.

International fares are determined at IATA Tariff Coordinating Conferences represented by various international airli-