

4. पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय

(क) समेकित वनरोपण तथा पारिस्थितिकी विकास परियोजना स्कीम

(ख) क्षेत्रोन्मुखी जलाकृषि लकड़ी तथा चारा परियोजना स्कीम

(ग) वनरोपण और वृक्षारोपण के लिए सहायता अनुदान योजना

(घ) पारिस्थितिकी कृतिक बल योजना

Development of Gautam Buddha Network to Promote Tourism

4717. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken fresh initiatives to formulate a comprehensive plan of action for development of Gautam Buddha Network (places of historical importance) in the country to promote tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the fund provided and utilised during the Eighth plan period alongwith achievements;

(c) the details of international tourists visiting these places each year for the past three years, year-wise and foreign exchange earned; and

(d) the details of foreign aid received utilised so far for development of tourists spots Buddha Network and assistance in the pipeline alongwith details of action plan for the current year?

THE MINISTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) and (b) a Task Force appointed by the Government to identify the centres associated with the life of Buddha submitted its report in October 1986. The report identified Sarnath, Kushinagar, Piprahawa, Sravasti and Sankasia in U.P. and Patna, Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali in Bihar for development. Based on the report, the development of these centres was taken up with the loan assist-

ance of Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan. The amount spent on this project during the 8th Plan was Rs. 125 crores;

The second Task Force set up in June 1987 identified the Buddhist Centres in other states for development by the respective States. Based on the project proposal received from the Maharashtra Govt. OECF loan assistance was provided for the Conservation and Development of Ajanta-Ellora. The amount spent on this project during the 8th Plan was Rs. 41.48 crores.

(c) The statistics of international tourists visiting these individual places and the foreign exchange earning from them are not available.

(d) The OECF loan assistance is not available in advance. The implementing agencies i.e. the State Governments have to spend the money first and then claim reimbursement from OECF. For the development of infrastructural facilities along identified Buddhist travel circuits in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar Rs. 155 crores has been reimbursed by OECF so far and for Ajanta-Ellora Conservation and tourism development project OECF reimbursed Rs. 54.14 crores so far.

Export of Handicrafts

4718. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for export of handicrafts sector during 1997-98 and achievements made;

(b) whether it is a fact that the share of Southern and Eastern regions in the total exports of handicrafts from the country was only eight per cent.

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith steps proposed to be taken for correcting regional imbalance in export of Indian handicrafts; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for giving a boost to some important lesser known crafts in the interna-