

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) According to the latest available estimates, the total medium and long term external debt of the country as on 30.09.1995 is Rs. 303071 crores. This is lower than the net capital stock of the country as on March 31, 1995 (Quick Estimates).

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government has been following a prudent debt management strategy aimed at reducing the debt se ratio to comfortable levels. This includes measures to promote the growth of exports and other current receipts, reduce the growth of total debt, reduce the growth of expensive and short term component of debt and to encourage non-debt creating inflows such as foreign investment.

Amount Spent on Development of Tourism

1621. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of amount spent by the centre during the last year to promote tourism in the country;

(b) the number of tourists have come to India during last year;

(c) whether Government have received any new proposals for tourism development if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have considered the scope of Kerala as a tourist centre; and

(e) whether the Central Government have any special programme for tourism development in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA):

(a) The Department of Tourism, Government of India, has released an amount of Rs. 1751.48 lakhs for 182 projects during

1995-96 to State/Union Territory Government for the development/promotion of tourism.

(b) 2.19 million foreign tourists visited India during 1995-96.

(c) The Government has identified 116 projects for Central Financial Assistance during 1996-97 in consultation with the State/Union Territory Governments for development of tourist infrastructure.

(d) and (e) The development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/Union Territory Government. However, the Department of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance for specific projects to the State Governments based on their merits, inter se priority and availability of funds. For the year 1996-97, the Department has identified four projects in consultation with the State Government for providing Central Financial Assistance to Kerala. Bekal Beach in Kerala has been identified as special tourism area for the development of tourism in the State.

Loan by Asian Development Bank to Gujarat

1622. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed loan of one billion US dollars of the Asian Development Bank to Gujarat has been finalised;

(b) if so, when and whether the State Government has been sounded in this regard for its utilisation;

(c) the sector in which this loan has been earmarked for utilisation; and

(d) the total amount so far released and utilised by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) ADB have agreed in principal to extend