

SHRI ASHIS SEN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, with the announcement of this waiver of loans, the big borrowers in the rural areas.

SHRI MADHU DANDAVATE : What I have said is only about overdues. If you take overdues and current dues, then the figures will be slightly more. This is VATE : What I have said is only about overdues. If you take overdues and current dues, then the figures will be slightly more. This is only about overdues, short loans, long loans and loans up to Rs. 10,000.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is only about overdues.

SHRI ASHIS SEN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, with this announcement of the waiver of loans, the big borrowers in the rural areas, are instigating the smaller borrowers that they need not pay back any loan to the regional rural banks or rural branches of the commercial banks with the result that a difficult situation has arisen wherein the recovery of loans has become a problem and these banks are not able to make fresh grants. That is why I would request the hon. Minister to make an announcement in this regard, or, issue some guidelines to the banks that the current lendings should not be affected so that the poor borrowers can be benefited by the grant of loans by the regional rural banks and the rural branches of the commercial banks. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he would make such an announcement in this regard.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I do share the fear that is expressed by the hon. a Member. I must candidly admit that after the Centre as well as the States took up this issue of waiver of loans, in the last two months, the recovery of loans by the various banks— whether

they are only co-operative bank at the district level or branches of the nationalised banks at the rural level — had suffered a lot and that is the reason why we want to take a decision on this once and for all so that there will be no uncertainty as far as recovery is concerned. Because we do not want the credibility of the banking institutions to suffer ; we also do not want the recovery to suffer. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 43.

Tourism Policy

*43. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a long-term policy for domestic and international tourism and if so, what are the parameters and considerations for the same

(b) whether different ministries are being consulted and if so, the report submitted by each of them regarding the promotion of tourism in the country ; and

(c) whether travel experts will also be taken into confidence while formulating the policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) : (a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(a) Yes, Sir. As a long-term policy to promote domestic and international tourism, the objective are to strengthen infrastructural facilities, improve tourism product and create a better environment for growth of tourism.

(b) The different Ministries are not only consulted but their assist-

ance and co-operation is sought as and when required.

(c) Experts from the hotel industry and travel trade are consulted whenever necessary while formulating policies.

SHRI RAOOF VALIUL-LAH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the statement which has been laid on the Table of the House, the hon. Minister has said that the objectives are : to strengthen infrastructural facilities, improve tourism product and create a better environment for growth of tourism.

After tourism was declared as an industry, it was expected that the Government would come forward with a national tourism policy. Firstly, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether a long-term national tourism policy will be formulated.

Secondly, what is the strategy adopted what are the priorities of the objectives you have mentioned and what are the output-measurement parameters? I had specifically asked about parameters. In regard to promotional steps taken by the Ministry, I would like to point out that the Tourism Ministry had announced, had plans to develop coastal tourism including island tourism. I would ask the hon. Minister to categorically state whether these are the priorities and what is the strategy to be adopted particularly to augment international and domestic tourism.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU : Sir, on the question of a long-term policy on tourism we have been working at it. We have been interacting not only with the various travel agents but also with the individual Ministries and the Government of India.

As I mentioned in my reply the first thing we are trying to do is to strengthen the infrastructure. Now, when we talk of strengthening the infrastructure, what really we are talking of is the establishment of new hotels. We are discussing with the Ministry of Finance the question of liberalisation and the giving of more concessions. We have taken it up with the State Government also. Similarly, we are giving financial assistance to the States for setting up *yatri niwasas*. We are liberalising the charter policy on incoming aircraft. We are planning to introduce the air-taxi scheme. We are also encouraging the running of new trains like, for example, the *Shatabdhi* express and the Palace on Wheels. In fact, we are going to have a new train because the existing train is getting very old.

Similarly, when we talk of the development of tourism product, we are organising special interest tours like wild-life tours, water sports, adventure sports etc. In fact, this is a very long list and if I start reading it, it will take ten minutes. But basically we are taking up this matter on a very very wide spectrum and while we are evolving a national policy on tourism, we also feel that there are many areas which have to be improved upon on which we are taking action as we go along.

As a matter of information, in regard to parameters which the hon. Member mentioned, I would like to point out that last year, we had about 1.2 million tourists coming to India. In the current year, this figure would go up to about 1.4 million. Our total revenue from tourism would be record Rs. 2,400 crores in the current year which is roughly 19 per cent of our total foreign exchange earnings.

To augment this further, one of the major things we have to do is to improve upon our infrastructure.

For that we are having major discussions with various Ministries. For instance, in Civil Aviation we have charter policies, airport constructions, rather revamping the entire structure. I can read it, I have got the whole thing here but the only thing is that it will take a long time.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: The primary function of India Tourism Development Corporation, when it was established, was to promote and develop international tourism. Today it is virtually limited to running hotels in the public sector. Would the Government, therefore, consider re-examining the role of ITDC and making it a coordinating agency for the development of tourism, both domestic and international tourism in the country?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Sir, ITDC is not merely running hotels in India. We are also running restaurants in Moscow and we have got excellent revenue. We are also having operations in Hungary in future and also expanding to other areas. It is our intention to sell the expertise to the people within the country and at the international level. We will try to make it a thrust body for tourism but ITDC is a part of it, it does not hold a package of tourism as such.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Sir, as a part of long-term domestic tourism is the Government considering introduction of new circuits, new triangles like the Delhi-Agra-Jaipur circuit, which are quite popular. Unfortunately, we have not developed new circuits. I was wondering whether you would be thinking in terms of introducing a Bombay-Aurangabad Goa circuit. Aurangabad has a rich heritage of Buddhist temples, like Ajanta, Elora. Today there is hardly one flight going from Bombay to Aurangabad and then on it goes to Udaipur,

Jodhpur and Delhi. Aurangabad is such a major tourist centre but it is not connected to Goa.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Government consider about the new circuit, especially Bombay-Aurangabad-Goa circuit. Then what are your plans for 'visit India Year 1990-91'? I do not see much activity for that.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Sir, as far as circuits are concerned, we have got 7 new circuits which we are planning to take up and the suggestion of the hon. Member we will take into account.

Coming to the second part of the question regarding the Tourist Year 1990-91, all the points which have been mentioning for developing tourism are part of this package. In fact, we want to sell this concept abroad that we are not on the traditional path of tourism, now we have got new avenues, like adventure tourism, heli-ski and so on. We have also several festivals in various parts of the country and will all be a package for 1990-91 year.

SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA: Would the hon. Minister kindly state whether in the State of Jammu and Kashmir particularly Ladakh which is very attractive spot for the tourists, from foreign countries, any steps are envisaged in your programme to augment the coming of tourists to that area? Also for the areas which are still inaccessible in the State of Jammu and Kashmir but which are some of them most beautiful spots in the world for the purpose of tourism will any amount be earmarked by the Government to make those areas available for tourism? Also will they be advertised?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Sir, Jammu and Kashmir has always been a very high priority in the Ministry of Tourism. In fact in the Seventh Plan we have disbursed an amount of Rs. 237 lakhs to J&K. The amount released so far is of course only Rs. 112 lakhs because a lot of it has not been utilized, the things have not come in time. But Ladakh is a major priority area and in all our marketing efforts abroad Ladakh is included.

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह ग्रहलुवालिया : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जिस तरह से सिकिम के लिए नई पालिसी बनाई गई है, उसी तरह से नागालैंड में भी कोई रास्ता खोलने का कोई सुझाव मंत्रालय के पास क्यों नहीं है। आज तक भी वहां टूरिस्ट ऐलान नहीं किए जाते ?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Sir, we are analysing the entire policy of opening up these restricted areas. Sikkim has been opened up and we plan to open up other areas. We are discussing that with the Home Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over. Papers to be laid.
Prof. Madhu Dandavate.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Sick and closed Textile Mills in Gujarat

***44. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a number of textile mills are sick and closed in Gujarat;

(b) if so, what is the number of textile mills that are closed in Gujarat because of sickness;

(c) what steps the Central Government are taking to re-open the closed textile Mills in Gujarat;

(d) whether Government have any proposal to provide relief to the unemployed workers of the closed textile mills; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) 23 textile mills lying closed in Gujarat as on 31-12-89 were sick at the end of December, 87, as per RBI classification.

(c) Re-opening of a closed mill depends on its viability being established before Nodal Agency BIFR. They have been requested to take up cases of closed textile mills on priority basis. Re-opening of non-viable mills may not be possible.

(d) and (e) Government have set up a Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund to provide interim relief to workers rendered unemployed due to permanent closure of textile mills. Upto 1-6-90 an amount of Rs. 9.65 crores was provided to 5735 workers of 7 closed textile mills in Gujarat. The State Government was also advised to take measures for rehabilitation of the affected workers and to ensure payment of their dues.

Payment of Conveyance Allowance to Central Government Employees

***45. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:**

DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consi-