

Promotion of tourism in Kashmir

57. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourists, both domestic and foreign, who visited Kashmir during the year 1985 and so far during 1986;

(b) whether his Ministry got prepared any video film highlighting the places of tourist interest to boost tourism in Kashmir; and

(c) if no such project has been launch ed, will Government consider such a pro posal?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) As per the information available from the State Government, the number of tourists, both domestic and foreign, who visited Kashmir valley during the year 1985 and upto August 1986 are as given below;

	Number of tourists	
	Domestic	Foreign
1985	465,599	38,015
1986 (Jan-Aug)	365,252	35,954

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Ministry has already initiated action for the purchase of video films on different places of tourist interest in the country including the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

Payment of D.A. instalments to Central Government employees

58. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of instalments of D.A. which have become due for payment to the Central Government employees as per the price index upto September, 1986; and

(b) by when these instalments are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE¹ (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The formula suggested by the Fourth Pay Commission is that compensation for price rise may be paid twice a year on the basis of percentage increase in whole numbers in the 12*—monthly average of the All India Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers (General) (Base 1960=100) for the periods ending June and December each year over the index average of 608 with the salary for September, and March respectively. The recommendations of the Commission have been accepted by the Government for Groups 'B', 'C and 'D' employees subject to the modification that compensation for price rise would be paid from 1st July with salary for September and from 1st January with salary for March.

Such percentage increase in whole numbers for the month ending June, 1986 works out to 4 per cent for employees of Groups 'B', 'C and 'D' Government orders in this regard will be issued in due course.

The decision of the Government on the recommendations of the Commission in so far as Group 'A' employees are concerned is yet to be taken.

Income-tax raids at the premises of newsprint importers

59. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether income-tax raids at the premises of newsprint importers were recently conducted in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details to this regard and also the outcome thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken/ proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Yes. Sir. 76 premises have been searched by the Income-Tax Department in the months of August and September, 1986. During the course of the searches *prima facie* unaccounted assets worth approximately Rs. 21.60 lakhs were seized. Appropriate action under the various provisions of the Income-Tax Act is being taken in these cases.

Bank service charges

60. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India has increased bank service charges;

(b) what were the bank service charges a year ago and what are the charges today; and

(c) what are the reasons for increasing bank service charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) All the public sector banks have revised their service charges and adopted one uniform schedule of service charges.

The revision in the service charges was considered necessary by banks to enable them to recover to some extent the cost of rendering these services to customers. The revised schedule has been based on the findings of the studies undertaken by the Indian Banks' Association (IBA). The revised service charges are related to cost inputs, of the banks in relation to specific services.

Old and new service charges in respect of some commonly used services are given in the annexure. [See Appendix CXL, Annexure No 1]

Loss of mandays due to strikes and lock-outs

61. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of mandays were lost due to strikes and lockouts in the country during the last two years;

(b) if so, how many strikes and lockouts took place during the last two years, statewide and the number of mandays lost in each case;

(c) what steps Government have taken to avoid strikes and lockouts; and

(d) how many strikes and lockouts were declared illegal by Government during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Statements I and II showing number of strikes and lockouts and mandays lost due to them during 1984 and 1985 is attached. [See Appendix CXL, Annexures No. 2 and 3]

(c) Government are keeping a constant watch on the industrial relations situation in the country. The Industrial Relations Machinery both at the Centre and in the States continue to make efforts to reduce work-stoppages through preventive mediation, conciliation and arbitration.

(d) Under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the illegality and otherwise of a strike/lockout is a matter to be decided by Labour Courts/Industrial Tribunals on which this Ministry does not maintain information.

Bank frauds

62. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHA-WAHA:

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of frauds in the public sector banks in the country are on the increase;

(b) if so, what is the number of bank frauds detected since the beginning? of