

(c) whether Government has formulated any scheme in this regard involving all the concerned States to curb the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) No such reports that forests of the country especially in the hilly areas are being indiscriminately exploited in the name of promoting tourism have been received by this Ministry. No non-forestry activity is permitted in forest areas except with the prior permission of the Central Government as per the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. In addition, recommendation of the National Board for Wildlife and permission of Hon'ble Supreme Court is required for any non forestry activity in the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. Further, in cases of projects located in eco-sensitive zone around Protected Areas (National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries), recommendation of National Board for Wildlife is required for obtaining environment clearance.

(c) to (e) The National Board for Wildlife has decided to regulate activities in the vicinity of Protected Areas by notifying areas as eco-sensitive zones. The National Tiger Conservation Authority has notified guidelines called "National Tiger Conservation Authority (Normative Standards for Tourism activities and Project Tiger) Guidelines 2012" for regulating eco tourism in Project Tiger areas. In addition, some States/UTs have also formulated policies to regulate eco-tourism in forest areas. These policies and guidelines provide for regulatory tourism without causing adverse impact on wildlife and its habitat.

Banks for women

2351. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has plan to open banks for women in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the norms and the details of such towns, cities etc. in the country which fulfil the criteria for branch of such banks and the plans prepared in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In his Budget Speech for the year 2013-14, the Finance Minister has announced as under:-

“Women are at the head of many banks today, including two public sector banks, but there is no bank that exclusively serves women. Can we have a bank that lends mostly to women and women-run businesses, that supports women SHGs and women’s livelihood, that employs predominantly women, and that addresses gender related aspects of empowerment and financial inclusion? I think we can. I therefore propose to set up India’s first Women’s Bank as a public sector bank and I shall provide Rs. 1,000 crore as initial capital. I hope to obtain the necessary approvals and the banking licence by October, 2013, and I invite all Hon’ble Members to the inauguration of the bank shortly thereafter.”

(c) Government has constituted an Expert Committee of eminent bankers to finalised the blue print for the bank.

Deferment of GAAR

2352: SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Anti Avoidance Rules (GAAR) as incorporated in the IT Act through Finance Act, 2012 have been deferred through Government Amendment to make the GAAR effective from 1 April, 2016;

(b) if so, when the said Amendment was brought by Government and how; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE: (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Finance Bill, 2013 proposes to make the provisions of the General Anti Avoidance Rules to be effective from the assessment year beginning on 1st April, 2016.