

overseas offices are giving due publicity to the North Eastern States for the promotion of tourism in the region.

- ◆ Allocation of 10% of Plan Budget of Department of Tourism, Government of India for tourism development in the Region.
- ◆ Production of CD-ROM titled 'Seven North Eastern States' to promote the tourist spots of the region.
- ◆ During the year 1999-2000, 79 projects amounting to Rs. 1781.08 lakhs have been sanctioned for the development of tourism in the North-Eastern States.

(d) Government have declared Explore India in the Millennium year campaign to attract more foreign tourists with attractive package in collaboration with tourism and travel trade to market India as an affordable destination. India is also being promoted overseas through Government of India Tourist Offices in various tourist generating markets. Other facilities provided to tourists include installation of information Kiosk at places of tourist interest, Handy Audio Reach Kit, creation of official portal, virtual CD-ROMS on touristic themes, etc.

District Science Centres in Tamil Nadu

3287. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of District Science Centres functioning in Tamil Nadu at present;

(b) whether Government propose to set up the Science Centres at Block level in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) A District Science Centre has been set up by the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) in 1987, at Tirunelveli, in Tamil Nadu. The Government does not propose to set up Science Centres at the Block level.