

[Translation]**Buddhist Pilgrimage Centres**

356. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHRY :
SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to airlink Buddhist Pilgrimage Centres in various parts of the country ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the places in Gujarat proposed to be airlinked ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Buddhist Pilgrimage Centres in the country are served by flights to Patna, Lucknow, Varanasi, Ahmedabad and Baroda. No new centre is proposed to be airlinked in the immediate future.

[English]**Tourism Promotion by Northern States**

357. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have evaluated the performance of the Northern States in the development of the tourism industry ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Anti-Tobacco Restrictions

358. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry was represented in the Committee constituted by Ministry of Health to formulate various anti-tobacco restrictions in 1991 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its reports ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) The Ministry of Health and family welfare has not constituted any Committee to formulate various anti-tobacco restrictions in the year 1991.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]**Small Savings Collection in Gujarat**

359. SHRI N. J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Union Government have received some proposals from the Government of Gujarat regarding the decline in small savings collections in the state :

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the details of the progress made so far in this regard ; and

(d) the time by which the proposals of the State Government are likely to be approved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) The proposals from the Government of Gujarat include raising of rate of interest on small savings schemes, extension of tax benefits, deferment of recovery of small savings loans and for treating such loans as loans in perpetuity.

(c) and (d) The rates of interest on certain small savings schemes were increased in April, 1992. The limit of tax concession under Section 80L was raised from Rs. 7,000 to Rs. 10,000.

Small savings collections during the current year so far have shown a substantial increase over the collections during the corresponding period of last year.

In view of the Centre's budgetary constraints, it is not found possible to agree to deferment of recoveries or to treat small savings loans as loans in perpetuity.