

Government of Madhya Pradesh sent 9 project proposals to the Union Government for financial assistance during 1997-98 to improve the tourist places of historical and religious importance. These projects have been approved and a sum of Rs. 119.30 lakhs has been sanctioned.

(c) The State Govts. are primarily responsible for assessing the tourism potential of a place. On the basis of the State Governments proposals, the Department of Tourism considers providing financial assistance for the development of certain places according to the schematic guidelines.

#### Development of Parshuram Dham, Deoria, U.P

513. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD:  
SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tourist places including major pilgrim places, particularly Parshuram Dham in Deoria and Buddhist pilgrim places developed/renovated with the Central assistance in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made during the last three years, till date, and the amount spent thereon, place-wise and year-wise;

(c) the details of above tourist places/pilgrim places proposed to be developed with Central assistance during 1998-99 alongwith financial assistance proposed to be provided to the State in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for speedy development/renovation of tourist places and pilgrim places in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has been providing financial assistance to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for the development of tourist places in the State. The amount sanctioned and released during the last three years were as given below:

| Year    | Sanction | Release (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---------|----------|------------------------|
| 1995-96 | 31.10    | 25.55                  |
| 1996-97 | 237.78   | 91.55                  |
| 1997-98 | 221.10   | 76.13                  |

The important places for which the projects were sanctioned. Includes Sunauli, Kapilavastu, Mathura, Haridwar and Vrindavan. No project was sanctioned for Parshuram Dham in Deoria.

In addition infrastructure development in the Buddhist Centres of Sarnath, Kushinagar, Piprawaha and Sravasti was taken up with the loan assistance of Rs. 105.96 crores from the Overseas Economic Co-Operation Fund of Japan.

(c) Financial assistance is provided each year on the basis of projects prioritised in consultation with the State Government and specific proposals received, and the progress of implementation of earlier sanctioned projects. Projects for 1998-99 have not yet been identified.

(d) Development of tourist places is a continuing process and is primarily undertaken by the State Government/UT Administrations. The Union Government has also launched a scheme for providing financial assistance for the development of pilgrim centres.

[English]

#### Priority Sector Lending

514. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:  
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:  
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:  
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bank inspection reports of various commercial banks prepared by the Reserve Bank of India do not make any mention of the concerned banks exposure to the priority sector lendings;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it has been made non-obligatory on the part of the commercial banks including foreign banks to stick to the guidelines issued by the RBI on priority lendings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that their Annual Financial Inspection Reports on commercial banks contain a paragraph on policy compliance, where in the banks lending to priority sectors *vis-a-vis* the mandated norms etc. are commented upon by the RBI Inspecting Officers.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) RBI have further reported that in terms of guidelines issued to commercial banks including foreign banks operating in India, it is obligatory for them to lend to the priority sector as per the details furnished below:

*Indian commercial Banks*  
(Both public and private sector)

Total priority sector advances: 40% of net bank credit

Total agricultural advances: 18% of net bank credit

Advances to weaker sections: 10% of net bank credit