

(Amount : Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	Sanctioned		Disbursed	
	Number of loans	Amount	Number of loans	Amount
1995-96	10103	4429.24	7668	3318.94
1996-97	9321	3939.96	7847	3246.48
1997-98	10912	4914.10	9936	4337.09

(c) and (d) There were 2955 applications pending as on 31st October, 1998 with various banks. Flow of applications, sanctions and disbursement is a continuous process.

(e) and (f) Under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) the following measures have been taken to avoid delay in providing credit under the scheme :-

(i) Banks are now allowed to receive applications directly from eligible borrowers for financing viable projects under the scheme, such applications are forwarded to District Industries Centres (DICs) with the banks' comments. The DICs in turn return them to the same bank branches for sanction after taking the application in their record.

(ii) Banks are allowed to provide training to the borrowers under PMRY wherever they have the necessary training facilities.

Visits of Tourists in Sikkim

953. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourists visited Sikkim, during the first six months of 1998-99;

(b) whether the number of tourists have increased as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps contemplated to boost tourism in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) to (c) According to the Statistics available from the Govt. of Sikkim, total number of tourists who visited Sikkim during first six months of 1997-98 and 1998-99 were 68865 and 76642 respectively. There is an increase of 11.3% in tourist arrivals during 1998-99 as compared to corresponding period of previous year.

(d) Various steps contemplated to boost tourism in the State include financial assistance for the improvement of tourism infrastructure and product development and publicity of tourist attractions of the State. The State Government has also prepared a Master Plan for the development of tourism in the State.

[English]

Revival of Instrumentation Ltd.

954. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the revival scheme for the Instrumentation Limited;

(b) whether there is any plan to make its Palghat Unit as a joint venture;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the land property of Palghat Unit around 300 acres given by the State Government as contribution; and

(e) if so, the reasons to consider the value of the property as a liability over the head of Palghat Unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) to (e) The revival scheme of Instrumentation Limited (IL) envisages corporate restructuring for technology upgradation, cost reduction and manpower rationalisation. The corporate restructuring stipulates IL retaining only the mother unit at Kota and other units viz. (i) Palghat unit (ii) DDC Unit of Kota and (iii) UPS Unit of Jaipur to be converted into separate companies as subsidiaries of IL. The revival plan also envisages formation of joint ventures for the mother unit and its subsidiaries including Palghat Unit.

300 acres of land had been made available in early seventies by the Kerala States Government to the company on 99 years lease for establishing Palghat Unit. The land has been considered as fixed asset of the Palghat Unit.

Allocation for Research and Development Activities

955. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total allocations made by Government for the Research and Development activities of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the total amount spent out of the allocations