

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra is facing an economic crunch at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the State Government has sought any financial assistance from the Union Government to overcome the economic crisis;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) As per reports of RBI, Government of Maharashtra has been maintaining and comfortable cash balance in its account with RBI. The State has never been in overdraft in the last year as well as in the current year so far.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) The question does not arise.

[English]

National Tourism Policy

1004. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of Tourism Ministers of States held in the Capital during the first week of August to give inputs for finalising the National Tourism Policy;

(b) if so, the names of the States represented by the Chief Ministers along with their suggestions for a better infrastructure linkages and smoother flow of tourists from the world; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Union Government along with the proposals to enact a legislation to curb the menace of touts, beggars, cheating and misguiding tourists due to which their holidays are ruined in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Tourism Minister's Conference was attended by Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh and Lt. Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Administration alongwith Tourism Ministers from 16 States. Some of the suggestions given by the State Tourism, Ministers for better infrastructure linkages for smoother

flow of tourist include upgradation and development of airports at Bodhgaya, Amritsar, Bhubaneshwar, Baghdogra, better air linkages to the State Capitals of North East Region, Sikkim, and important tourist centres in the country, removal of RAP/PAP in the North Eastern States development of National Highway between Tripura, Manipur and Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Darjeeling, necessary support and incentives for private sector investment in Tourism and use of information technology.

(c) The Conference adopted these suggestions in the form of resolutions. The State Governments were also asked to formulate suitable regulatory measures in the form of Tourism Trade Act, Tourism Assistance Police to ensure the safety and security of tourists.

Plantation Companies

1005. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plantation companies registered by the Registrar of Companies and SEBI, respectively;

(b) the details of the companies which have procured an investment grade;

(c) the details of companies which have not procured an investment grade; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to clamp curbs on these firms?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) As on date, 643 entities operating Collective Investment Schemes have filed information with SEBI.

(b) and (c) SEBI, has stated that so far, no company has obtained an investment grade. A list of companies which have been rated below investment grade ratings is given in the attached statement.

(d) Government issued a press release in November, 1997 bringing plantation scheme in the nature of collective investment schemes under the regulatory jurisdiction of SEBI. Following this SEBI has constituted a committee headed by Dr. S.A. Dave to frame regulation for these schemes. SEBI has also directed the existing Companies to obtain a credit rating before mobilising further funds.

Statement

List of Collective Investment Schemes below Investment Grade

1. Swaranbhoomi Forests (India) Ltd.,
2. Rose Valley Resorts & Plantations Ltd.
3. Timber World Resorts and Plantations India Ltd.
4. Hariyali Plantations (India) Ltd.
5. La Mark Farms Ltd.
6. Shivaji Estate & Livestock Farms Ltd. (SELF)