

years. Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned the following budget accommodation projects in South Bihar:—

S.No.	Year	Name of the Project
1.	1990-91	Tourist Complex at Hazaribagh (South Bihar)
2.	1991-92	Tourist Complex at Dhanbad (South Bihar)
3.	1991-92	Tourist Complex at Topchanchi (South Bihar)
4.	1994-95	Tourist Complex at Jamshedpur (South Bihar)
5.	1998-99	Upgradation-cum-expansion of existing tourist facilities at Birsa Vihar, Ranchi (South Bihar)
6.	1998-99	Upgradation-cum-expansion of existing tourist facilities at Ratna Vihar, Dhanbad (South Bihar).

Entry of Banks in Insurance Sector

3270. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI VITHAL TUPE:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI is drawing up guidelines for the entry of nationalised banks and State run banks into the insurance sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Export from Jammu and Kashmir

3271. PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of major items exported from Jammu and Kashmir during each of the last three years; and

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned from the export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Ministry of Commerce maintains Export data for the country as a whole and not state-wise. However, the major items exported from Jammu & Kashmir are carpets, papier mache, wood carving, shawls, walnut and artificial jewellery.

Austerity Measures

3272. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI:
SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY:
SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance has issued strict instructions to all Ministries/Departments of Government

of India to reduce the number of employees on their rolls and also to introduce 10 percent mandatory cut on TAs, office expenses, petrol bills etc;

(b) whether these instructions are being implemented by all Ministries/Departments of the Government;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the other steps Government propose to take for its strict compliance?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (d) In the context of the imperative need to reduce establishment expenditure, guidelines were issued on expenditure management, fiscal prudence and austerity to be observed in Ministries and Departments in the Central Government. These guidelines envisage, *inter alia*, some restrictions on filling up vacant posts at the lowest level in the hierarchy, a 10% mandatory cut on non-salary secretariat expenditure i.e. on T.A., office expenses, petrol, oil and lubricants, etc.

Various Ministries/Departments have general adhered to these guidelines. Implementation of these guidelines is monitored by the concerned Financial Adviser and the Deptt. of Expenditure and appropriate remedial action taken.

[Translation]

Cashewnut Board in Maharashtra

3273. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the Maharashtra Government to set up a Cashewnut Board in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Liberalisation of Import Policy

3274. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have further liberalised the import policy;

(b) if so, the details of those items for which import policy has been liberalised;

(c) the impact of the liberalised import policy on the domestic small and cottage industries;

(d) whether the domestic industries are likely to be flourished as a result of this import policy; and

(e) if so, the manner in which alongwith the measures to be taken by the Government to protect these industries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has shifted certain items from Restricted List to Free List of Imports and from Canalised to Special Import Licence List. A copy of the relevant Notification No. 25 dated 15th October 1998 issued by the Ministry of Commerce giving details of the items so shifted is attached as Statement.

(c) and (d) The Liberalised Import Policy would result in easy availability of raw materials etc. for a number of items manufactured by Small Scale Sector. This in turn would benefit Small Scale Units in improving their productivity as well as quality of goods.

(e) Custom duties on these imports would provide safeguard to these industries, wherever required.