

**Eco-Tourism**

3340. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Wyanad District in Kerala has been identified as an important destination for eco-tourism in Kerala;

(b) whether the Government of Kerala has sought any financial assistance for promotion of eco-tourism in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) For the development of Wyanad district in Kerala, the Ministry of Tourism has prioritised Rs. 50.00 lakhs for the construction of a Yatri Niwas at Thirunelly.

(b) and (c) The Government of Kerala has identified Thenmala for development as one of the eco-tourism projects. The Government of India has prioritised a project for purchase of trekking and rock-climbing equipments for Thenmala during the year 1998-99 at an estimated cost of Rs. 25.00 lakhs.

**Hotels and Motels in Kerala**

3341. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of ITDC Hotels and Motels in Kerala, location-wise;

(b) the quantum of profit/loss during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to make it more profitable ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) ITDC is operating only one hotel viz. Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort, Kovalam in the State of Kerala. It is a profit making unit and year-wise details of profit earned during last three years are given below:

(Rs. in Lacs)

Year	Amount
1995-96	411.49
1996-97	279.86
1997-98	174.00

(c) The steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve profitability of the Hotel includes upgradation/renovation of the property; introduction of new packages i.e. Weekend, Honeymoon, Beach & Backwater Holidays, Ayurvedic Rejuvenation; conducting regular Food Festivals; launching of Privilege Card offering various facilities; aggressive promotion of Convention Centre; control and reduction of avoidable expenditure etc.

**Export Promotion Zones**

3342. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are satisfied with EPZ scheme in so far as pursuance of its objectives;

(b) if so, the details of the Export Promotion Zones that had organised export promotion without any concomitant disadvantages; and

(c) if not, the date by which this scheme is likely to be wound up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Export Processing Zone (EPZ) Scheme, by and large, has been able to achieve its main objective of earning of foreign exchange, stimulating domestic and foreign investments in export oriented industries and expending employment opportunities. Details of exports, investment and employment by units in the EPZs are indicated below:—

Exports (1997-98)	Domestic/Foreign Investment	Employment
Rs. Crores	by units (Rs. Crores)	
4817.30	1564.35	82,980

(c) Does not rise.

**Foreign Tour by Director, STC**

3343. SHRI AKBAR AHMAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited had gone abroad against the advice of solicitors of the Corporation;

(b) if so, the reasons for complaint received in this regard by Ministry of Commerce has not been redressed till date;

(c) whether a claim of 16 crores has been received by the State Trading Corporation of India Limited for his total mishandling and mismanagement of the subject deal on sugar; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken against him for misuse of Government's fund and resulting in losses of 16 crores?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) State Trading Corporation deputed its Director (Law) and General Manager (Law) to attend the court proceedings at London in December, 1996 with the approval of the competent authority and in consultation with its solicitors at London in a case in which damages were claimed for import of sugar by M/s. Andre & Cie.

After verification of the facts, the complaint received in this regard in Ministry of Commerce was closed with the approval of competent authority.

(c) and (d) Based on the judgment of the London Court and the award given by the Refined Sugar Association, a sum of Rs. 2.13 crores (approx.) has been paid by STC to M/s. Andre and Cie. This case is already under investigation by CBI and an RC has been registered on 19.3.1997 against the delinquent officials.

[Translation]

#### Role of SIDBI

3344. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the role played by Small Scale Industries Development Bank of India in promoting small scale industries in the country with particular reference of Bihar;

(b) the number of small industrial units set up/revived by the said bank in the State by providing loan during the last three years;

(c) whether the said bank propose to increase its activities in the State; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) as an apex financial institution for promotion, financing and development of Small Scale Industries (SSI) sector has been playing a dominant role in the country

as a whole since its inception (in 1990). SIDBI has been lending by way of both indirect as well as direct finance. The cumulative assistance provided by SIDBI during the period 1990-98 aggregated Rs. 36,264 crores of sanctions and Rs. 26,702 crores of disbursements. SIDBI has been extending loans through its various schemes, refinance assistance, direct lending and promotional activities to ensure accelerated flow of credit to the State of Bihar. SIDBI has 2 branch offices in the state as against only one branch office in many other states. SIDBI's assistance by way of sanctions and disbursements to SSIs in the state of Bihar during the last 3 years is as under:

Year	(Rs. crore)		
	Bihar		
	No.	Sanctions	Disbursements
1995-96	1143	57.90	51.95
1996-97	1653	92.93	78.38
1997-98	4635	105.69	97.69

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Visit India Year

3345. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:  
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the year from 1st April, 1999 to 31st March, 2000 "Visit India Year" has been declared as India Tourism year;

(b) if so, whether the Government have decided to launch any special scheme for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) The Ministry of Tourism is proposing to organise "Visit India Year" from 1st April 1999 to 31st March, 2000.