

on the basis of inter-se priorities, availability of funds etc. on receipt of specific proposals for the same. No proposal in this regard has been received from the State Govt. of Kerala for Central financial assistance during 1998-99.

Assest of PSUs

3627. SHRI D.S. AHIRE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to sell surplus land/non-performing assests of certain Public Sector Undertakings in the country, particularly in Maharashtra to finance their working capital requirements;

(b) if so, the names of PSUs whose land/non-performing assets likely to be sold;

(c) the reasons for taking such decision;

(d) the effect on PSUs in the long run as a result thereof;

(e) whether the said decision is likely to be reviewed; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) to (f) Government/PSEs consider the sale of surplus land/non-performing assests as a possible option for mobilisation of resources to finance the proposals for long term viability of the PSUs. In the case of NIC mills in Maharashtra the revival package envisages sale of surplus land for sourcing the funds. There is, however, no general decision on sale of non-performing assests. Such proposals are considered on merit and on case to case basis.

Private Sector Banks

3628. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India have set up a High-Level Committee during the month of January 1998 to review the norms for allowing entry of new private sector banks;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(c) the main recommendations made by the Committee; and

(d) the number of the recommendations which have been implemented so far?

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) An 'In house Working Group' has been formed in Reserve Bank of India in January, 1998 to objectively examine the various aspects of working of new private sector banks and to suggest the policy frame work for future.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Action Plan for Tourism

3629. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the on-going tourism projects in the country being sponsored by the Union Government, State-wise;

(b) the details of Action Plan prepared for the development and promotion of tourism in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the amount allocated for this purpose, during 1997-98 and 1998-99 State-wise; and

(d) the concrete steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to State/U.T. Governments for the implementation of tourism projects including accommodation units, way side amenities, adventure tourism facilities etc. based on specific proposals received from them and availability of funds. During the year 1997-98 the Ministry of Tourism sanctioned a sum of Rs. 4752.96 lakhs for the implementation of 259 projects. A statement giving state wise details is enclosed.

The action plan for development and promotion of tourism during 9th Five Year Plan includes strengthening of institutional set-up, creation of awareness about economic and social benefits of tourism ensuring accelerated infrastructure and project development, pursuing sustained human resource development, ensuring synergy in cost effectiveness in tourism promotion, marketing and guiding the development process through market research and technological innovations.

(c) and (d) The budget allocation for providing assistance to State/U.T. Governments during 1997-98 and 1998-99 were Rs. 24.3 crores and Rs. 52.0 crores respectively. State wise allocation for 1997-98 is given in the enclosed statement. The steps being taken for the development of tourism include creation of awareness about economic benefits of tourism, continued assistance