

[Translation]

Rail Reservation for Foreign Tourists2730. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made arrangement to promote the international and domestic tourism to enable foreign tourists to get their rail reservation before coming to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND
MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Railway have appointed Air India and Indian Airlines as their General Sales Agents for sale of Indrall Passes, Luxury Trains, Weekender Packages and other products overseas. Indian Railways will give priority to requests received from these Air carriers for reservation against foreign tourist quota. The modalities for implementation are being worked out and this arrangement is likely to come into force shortly.

[English]

Bifurcation of Spices Board2731. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of
COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is great possibility for marketing and export of chillies, turmeric and tamarind;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a demand for bifurcation of Spices Board and setting up of a separate Board, with Vijayawada as headquarters to deal with these commodities; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI
RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of exports of Chillies, Turmeric and Tamarind from India during 1997-98 are as under :

Item	Qty. (In Tonnes)	Value (Rs. Lakhs)
Chilli	43,450	14013.25
Turmeric	24,900	7510.00
Tamarind (April-December)	6,813	1277.65

Source: Spices Board.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Spices Board is having a regional office at Hyderabad and a field office at Guntur for implementing/monitoring the activities of the Board, particularly in the areas of post-harvest handling and quality improvement of Species. Setting up a separate Board for these commodities would involve avoidable duplication of activities and would not result in commensurate gains.

Decline of Export2732. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of
TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of garments, jute products, textile products exported to different countries during the last three years;

(b) whether there has been a sharp decline in the export of jute products, garments, and textile products during the above period as compared with the previous three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to increase export?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM
RANA) : (a) to (d) According to provisional figures available with the Ministry of Textiles, in dollar terms, the overall growth in the export of textiles during 1997-98 was approximately 4.6%. The growth during 1996-97 and 1995-96 was 10.8% and 7.1% respectively. The exports of textiles and garments (including jute, handicrafts and coir) during the last three years had been as follows :

Year	Value in US million dollars
1995-96	10,685.07
1996-97	11,839.13
1997-98	12,389.91

The textiles and garments are exported to almost all the countries.

In order to boost the exports of textiles, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyers - seller meets; fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

Anti-Dumping duty on Antibiotics by EU2733. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of
COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a provisional anti-dumping duty is to be levied on India's exports of antibiotics by European Union; and

(b) if so, the details of the companies likely to be affected by this duty?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir. European Commission has imposed provisional countervailing duties on the import of three broad-spectrum anti-biotics from India with effect from 11.6.98.

(b) The affected companies are Biochem Synergy Ltd. Indore, Harshita Ltd. New Delhi, Kopran Ltd. Mumbai, Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd. New Delhi, Lupin Laboratories Ltd. Mumbai and Orchid Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Chennai.

[Translation]

Japan aid for Buddhist Tourist Places

2734. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to connect the Buddhist tourist places such as Kushinagar, Kakarhava, Sarnath, Bodhgaya and Rajgeer with airlink alongwith road and railway to facilitate the arrival of foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Japan have proposed any package to facilitate the arrival of tourists at the said places of Buddhist Pilgrimages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government has entered into a soft loan agreement with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, Japan in December 1988 for the development of infrastructure along the identified Buddhist travel circuits in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The financial assistance is to the tune of 7.7 billion Japanese yen. The project period is upto January 1999. The places covered in U.P. and Sarnath, Kushinagar, Piprahwa and Srasvati and the place covered in Bihar are Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali. The major components of the project are strengthening of national and state highways, land scaping, augmentation of water and electricity supply and setting up of wayside amenities.

[English]

Honey Manufacturing Industry

2735. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified the honey manufacturing places in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the promotion of Honey Manufacturing Industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of Honey producing states in the country during the last two years is given in the attached Statement.

(c) The Department of Small Scale and Agro & Rural Industries provides financial assistance through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission under KVIC's Margin money scheme to viable projects received from KVIC Institutions as well as individuals. During 1997-98 KVIC disbursed Rs. 6.66 lakhs as Grant and Rs. 4.26 lakhs as Loan under this programme. The KVIC has also taken up the National Programme for Bee Keeping Development (NPBC) for development of the honey industry and creation of self-employment opportunities in our rural areas. The KVIC, in collaboration with the North Eastern Council, has also sanctioned a regional project on development of Apiculture for commercial exploitation in the North Eastern Region.

Statement

Honey Production

(Value Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	Year	
		1996-97	1997-98 (P)
1	2	3	4
I. STATES			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	158.77	174.53
2.	Assam	206.79	227.31
3.	Bihar	517.76	569.14
4.	Goa	0.10	0.10
5.	Haryana	29.37	32.28
6.	Himachal Pradesh	37.76	40.41
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	105.18	115.62
8.	Karnataka	89.31	98.17
9.	Kerala	259.87	285.66
10.	Madhya Pradesh	15.20	16.71
11.	Maharashtra	70.22	77.19
12.	Manipur	81.99	90.13
13.	Meghalaya	88.53	97.32
14.	Mizoram	1.73	1.90