

(a) whether the State Bank of India has opened foreign exchange dealing centres at Bombay, Madras and New Delhi and posted dealers over there with a view to decentralise the foreign exchange dealing and cover operations so far centralised at its Foreign Exchange Department Calcutta; and

(b) if so; the details therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b). State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that it has set up Dealing Rooms at Bombay, Madras and New Delhi solely out of commercial necessity and with a view to withstand emerging competition in foreign exchange area from other banks including foreign banks. According to SBI, even after setting up of Dealing Rooms at these centres, foreign exchange work and cover operations continue to be centralised at Foreign Department, Calcutta.

[Translation]

Scheme to Construct Hotels at Hilly Tourist Places

10564. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are formulating any scheme for construction of hotels at various tourist places in hilly areas of the country with a view to provide more accommodation facility to foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to give financial assistance to hotel industry for developing tourist accommodations in hilly areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, With a view to attract investment in hotels at tourist centers in hilly areas, new approved hotels set up in hilly areas above 3000 ft. not having 300 rooms of reasonable standard (3-star and above) would be exempted from expenditure tax for a period of 10 years and also be given 50% exemption from tax under 80-I of the Income Tax Act provided the hotel becomes operational by December 1993.

(c) and (d). Financial Institutions have been set up to provide financial assistance for construction of hotels.

Setting up of a Radio Station at Dharchula in Uttar Pradesh

10565. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that programmes of All India Radio do not reach some border areas of Pithoragarh district in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government have received several requests for setting up a radio station at Dharchula for the benefit of the people of that area;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to sanction a radio station there in 1990-91; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Programmes of All India Radio on Medium Wave are not available in the border areas of Pithoragarh district of