

(d) Based on the proposals received from Gujarat for 1999-2000 Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 362.92 lakhs for various projects out of which an amount of Rs. 80.19 lakhs has already been released.

Development of Kempambudi Tank

3948. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sanctioned One crore rupees for the development of Kempambudi Tank in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details of developmental works proposed to be taken-up;

(c) the estimated cost for the development of the above tank; and

(d) the amount, if any, released so far?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Development of tourism projects is primarily undertaken by the State Government/UT Administrations. Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with State Govt. concerned.

Ministry of Tourism has requested the State Govt. of Karnataka to send a proposal for Central financial assistance for carrying out improvements in the Kempambudi Tank in Bangalore. However, no reply has been received from the State Govt.

Construction of Yatri Niwas in Uttar Pradesh

3949. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have chalked out any scheme and programme for construction of Yatri Niwas in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

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

(c) the financial allocation likely to be proposed by the Government to the State in this regard; and

(d) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Development of tourist places is a continuing process and is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance for tourism projects/schemes in consultation with the State Governments every year as per guidelines and availability of funds, During 1999-2000, a sum of Rs. 90.00 lakhs was sanctioned and Rs. 27.00 lakhs released as first instalment to Uttar Pradesh Government for construction of three Yatri Niwas in the State.

Projects for 2000-2001 have not yet been identified.

According Tourism the Status of Industry

†3950. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry has accepted the proposal of Commerce Ministry for granting the status of industry to Indian tourism;

(b) if so, whether some concrete steps have been taken on the suggestions of Commerce Ministry in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have laid much emphasis on construction of five star hotels in the country in a planned manner; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) At the request of Ministry of Tourism, 25 States have declared tourism as an industry and 3 States have declared hotels as an industry.

(b) and (c) Hotels, Travel agents, Tour operators, Tourist transport operators are entitled for recognition as Export House/Trading House/Star Trading House/Super Trading House etc. on the basis of their free foreign exchange earnings.

(d) and (e) Construction of hotels is mostly a private sector activity. However, Union Government extends fiscal incentives to prospective investors

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.