

[29th February, 2000] RAJYA SABHA

(b) the details of the ongoing tourist projects in the State sponsored by Government; and

(c) by when the above projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Central Financial assistance sanctioned/released during last three years to Assam is as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	No. of projects	Amount Sanctioned
1996-97	7	155.96
1997-98	12	288.88
1998-99	9	1376.64
1999-2000	(20 projects for an amount of Rs. 723.00 lakhs have been prioritised).	

(b) and (c) Six projects have been completed and 22 projects pertaining to tourist accommodation, wayside amenities, refurbishment of monuments, building of the Institute of Hotel Management, etc. are in various stages of completion by the State Government.

Impact of IA summer schedule on tourist arrival at Leh

584. **SHRI KUSHOK THIKSEY:** Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to unavailability of seats and late declaration of Indian Airlines summer schedule to Leh has adverse impact on the foreign tourists visiting Ladakh every summer causing huge foreign exchange loss to the nation; and

(b) whether the Ministry of Tourism has taken up the matter with Civil Aviation Ministry in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) There has been ups and downs in the foreign tourists visiting Ladakh over years. Figures of tourist arrivals in Ladakh for the last ten years are as follows:—

Year	Foreign Tourists
1990	6342
1991	8014
1992	13580
1993	12401
1994	15369
1995	12391
1996	13036
1997	12810
1998	15238
1999	9669

According to information available from Indian Airlines, in addition to the scheduled services to Leh, additional services between Delhi and Leh are operated every year during June-September and schedule of additional service is announced in early March itself. They have, however, indicated that seat factors for last three years on Delhi/Leh/Delhi services during April-September has varied between 50—60% only.

(b) The Ministry of Civil Aviation had been requested to introduce more flights to Leh.

Maintenance of tourist places in Assam

585. **SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:** Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount spent by Government for development and maintenance of all the tourist places in the State of Assam during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of amount to be spent by Government for