

(d) whether the proposal will boost foreign earnings, besides generation of income and employment avenues to several thousand people of the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when the proposal will be ready?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) The Government of India has accorded Export House Status to Tourism. Hotels, Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Tourist Transport Operators shall be entitled for recognition as Export House/Trading House/Star Trading House/Super Star Trading House vide Government of India, Ministry of Commerce Notification No. 33 dated 26-11-98. Consequently, they shall be entitled to such benefits as specified in Chapter 12 of the Hand Book of Procedures (Vol. I).

(c) The development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, Union Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for tourism infrastructure for which State Governments seek assistance.

(d) and (e) The granting of industry status and consequential benefits thereof would help in the development of tourism which would ultimately result in higher foreign exchange earnings.

Development of Tourism in Kerala

2013. VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has made any proposal for development of tourism in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any scheme for introducing more tourist centres

in Kerala and also to introduce the house boats in the veinland lake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the State Government has prioritised 15 projects amounting to Rs. 467 lakhs for the development of tourism in the State of Kerala.

(c) There are 4 tourist centres in Kerala which are Bekal, Cochin, Kovalam and Trivandrum. There is no proposal to introduce more tourist centres in Kerala. No proposal from the State Government has been received for introducing house boats in the veinland lake. However, the project to purchase house boats for Malabar has been prioritised for the current financial year for Rs. 50.00 lakhs.

Grant of export industry status to Tourism

2014. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the position of Tourism industry on grant of export industry status and benefits related to the status;

(b) the foreign exchange earning of tourism industry during the past three years and current year so far with year-wise and State-wise break-up with reference to Maharashtra in particular;

(c) what are the growth perceptions of tourism industry for the next five years; and

(d) the details of investments on ongoing projects recently cleared/under consideration, including private sector and FDI projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) The Government of India vide Notification No. 33 (RE-98) 1997-2002 dated 26-11-98 has accorded Export House status to the Tourism Industry. Consequently, the Hotels, Travel, Agents, Tour Operators & Tourism Transport Operators shall be entitled to such benefits as specified in Chapter 12 of the Handbook of Procedures (Vol. I).

(b) The foreign exchange earnings are not computed Statewise. The Estimated Foreign Exchange earnings for the country during the last three years are as under:—

1995	Rs. 8,633.30 Crores
1996	Rs. 10,049.95 Crores
1997	Rs. 11,051.43 Crores
1998	Rs 10,156.80 Crores (up-to November 1998).

(c) The Ministry of Tourism is projecting an average annual growth rate of 8 per cent in the foreign tourist arrivals during the next five years.

(d) There have been 18 hotel projects cleared by the Ministry of Tourism during the last three months. Also, during the same period two Foreign Direct Investment cases worth investment US\$ 860,000 were cleared.

ITDC attitude in litigation matters

2015. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITDC displays a very harsh and un-compromising attitude in matters of litigation with employees;

(b) whether it is a fact that ITDC appeals to Supreme Court as routine and indiscriminately;

(c) whether any guide-lines are followed by ITDC in deciding to appeal to the highest Court;

(d) what steps Government propose to properly supervise ITDC in this area of activity; and

(e) the reasons for taking recourse to litigations to settle scores with employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (e) No Sir. It is not correct that ITDC adopts harsh and uncompromising attitude in settling the disputes and uses litigation to settle scores with employees. In fact, it has always been the endeavour of the management to settle disputes by mutual discussions and even sort out the Court cases by having out of Court settlement. ITDC considers litigation as a last resort and goes for Appeal against the Award of Lower Courts after careful perusal of the Award Order.

Notification of the Ministry of Home Affairs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): Sir, I lay on the Table—

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Home Affairs Notification C.S.R. 407(E), dated the 24th July, 1998 publishing the Border Security Force [Air Wing Non-Gazetted (Combatised) Group 'C' Postal] Amendment Rules, 1998, under sub-section (3) of section 141 of the Border Security Force Act, 1968.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1850/98].