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Development of Tourism in Assam and Rajasthan

120. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Government to develop tourism in Assam and Rajasthan during the Eighth Plan;

(b) what have been the details of achievements and failures of each of these; and

(c) what are the details of steps contemplated to accelerate development of tourism?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) to (c) Development of Tourism is an ongoing process and is primarily undertaken by the State/U.T. Governments. Department of Tourism provides funds for Development of Tourism Infrastructure to the State Govts./Union Territories based on specific proposals received from them as per guidelines. During the VIIIth Plan the Deptt. of Tourism sanctioned Rs. 437.37 lakhs to Assam and Rs. 1308.04 lakhs to Rajasthan.

The Central financial assistance is used to create infrastructure such as wayside amenities, tourist complexes, tourist reception centres, refurbishment of monuments, adventure sports activities and publicity support for fairs and festivals. Such projects lead to the achievement of creating additional tourism infrastructure. Steps contemplated to accelerate development of tourism include greater focus on infrastructure development, strengthening of marketing efforts and sustained human resources development.

Encouragement to Tourism

121. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARI-BHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formu-

lated any scheme to encourage tourism in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme to encourage private sectors to invest into tourism infrastructure;

(d) whether Government propose to reduce air fares to encourage tourism; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) and (b) Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Central Department of Tourism provides Financial Assistance to the States/Union Territories every year on the basis of specific project proposals received and availability of funds.

During 1997-98, a sum of Rs. 557.05 lakhs was sanctioned to Orissa for 28 projects, Rs. 119.31 lakhs to Madhya Pradesh for 9 projects and Rs. 111.84 lakhs for 7 projects in Gujarat. These projects included, tourist complexes, tourist reception centres, wayside amenities, adventure sports facilities, SEL show and festivals.

(c) Central Government provides fiscal incentives and other incentives like the Interest Subsidy on loans to encourage private sector to invest in the Tourism Infrastructure. State Governments/Union Territories also provide various incentives under schemes operated by respective State/Union Territories.

(d) and (e) Domestic air fares are determined by the Domestic Airlines including Indian Airlines from time to time in their own commercial judgement depending upon the market conditions, cost of operations, etc.

International fares are determined at IATA Tariff Coordinating Conferences represented by various international airli-