

- A chapter of Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management has recently been opened at Guwahati.
- A full fledged Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology has been set up at Shillong.
- A video film on tourist attractions for North East has been produced by Ministry of Tourism in order to give wide publicity to the region. This is being screened by Air India in their flights.
- North Eastern States are given a free booth in the World's largest tourism fair ITB Berlin.
- Financial Assistance for promotion of Fairs and Festivals is also being provided to North Eastern States every year on continuing basis.
- North Eastern States are given a special focus in the Marketing Conference of Overseas Offices of the Ministry and all the overseas offices are giving due publicity to the North East States for the promotion of tourism in the region.
- In the first four years of 9th Five Year Plan 340 projects amounting to Rs. 73.79 crores have been sanctioned and Rs. 27.85 crores have already been released to NE States.

Incentives to entrepreneurs to boost tourism industry

1208. SHRI S. SIVASUBRAMANIAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is giving or propose to give incentives to the entrepreneurs to boost up the tourism industry by way of concession/subsidy in capitals/urban/semiurban/rural and remote areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to boost the tourism industry the Union

Government is providing various financial and fiscal incentives to the approved tourism units including Income Tax Exemptions under Section 80 IB and 80 HHD of the Income Tax Act 1961; Interest Subsidy on Loans taken from the identified financial institutions by 1-3 Star and Heritage category hotels; Import of Speciality Food Items; Concessional Custom Duty on Imports under EPCG Scheme.

(c) Does not arise.

Private investments in tourism sector in Andhra Pradesh

1209. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether private investment of Rs. 500 crore during the current year and Rs. 1700 crore for next three years for tourism sector is coming in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any concrete policy has been framed for new tourism projects to be taken up in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by what time they are likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir, as per information provided by Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Yes, Sir. In the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Policy, 1998 certain incentives and exemptions have been provided besides leasing land for tourism projects in the Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The details includes Investment Subsidy, Luxury Tax Exemption, Sales Tax Exemption, Road Tax Exemption, Stamp duty exemption, Exemptions from Zoning Regulations of the Municipalities and UDAs, Exemption from the provisions relating to Regulations of Employment Exchange (Notification of vacancies) and Exemptions from general permissions to run in shift operations.

(d) These incentives and concessions are applicable to the Tourism Projects as and when they are set up by the private sector in Andhra Pradesh.