

During the 10th Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 6.25 lakh was sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India to Andaman and Nicobar Islands for tourism related activities. The Government of India had also allocated Rs.76.5 crore as additional Central Assistance under Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme for up-gradation of tourism in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to be utilized in 3 consecutive years, i.e. 2006-07 to 2008-09.

Development of tourist circuit in Orissa

829. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN:

SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to develop the holy city of Puri in Orissa as a mega tourist circuit;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also proposed to enhance security in and around the holy temple and adjoining sea beach; and
- (d) if so, what is the action plan of the Centre to help the State Government both financially and physically for successful execution of this project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations for tourism related infrastructure projects under the scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits which are identified in consultation and interaction with them and sanctioned subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority.

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned a project - Development of Bhubaneshwar - Puri - Chilika as a mega circuit for a total amount of Rs. 30.22 crore out of which an amount of Rs. 14.98 crore has been earmarked for development of Puri.

Instructions have been issued to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to ensure law and order and security around important tourist destinations, hotels etc.

Special scheme for promoting tourism

830. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has proposed any special scheme for promoting the tourism in the country which is affected due to recent terror activities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for this purpose, State-wise; and
- (c) if not, the reasons, therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism has taken several initiatives for promoting tourism to the country after the recent terrorist attacks.