

Ministry of Tourism has also identified “Churches of Goa” as one of the 22 Mega Projects identified in the country for development under the Scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development of Destination/circuits.

Tourist destination in Jharkhand and Orissa

435. MS. MABEL REBELLO:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has identified top 20 tourist destinations in the country with an eye for wooing the potential foreign and domestic tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof *inter alia* indicating those located in the Jharkhand and Orissa; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to develop a holistic and integrated approach to achieve convergence and synergy with other Government programmes, so that the impact of investment on these destinations is maximized?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism has so far identified 22 mega destinations and circuits in the country on the basis of tourism related data on domestic and foreign tourist visits, future potential and in consultation with State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Puri-Bhubaneswar-Konark-Chilka is one of these circuits for which an amount of Rs.3022.80 lakh has been sanctioned in the current financial year.

Ministry of Tourism is taking up development of nationally and internationally important destinations/circuits through mega projects in a phased manner. So far 15 projects for development of mega destinations/circuits have been sanctioned. Ministry of Tourism also co-ordinates with Ministries of Railways, Civil Aviation, Road Transport and Highways and Urban Development etc. for convergence of projects to ensure holistic and integrated development of tourist destinations and circuits.

Promotion of tourism at Konkan coastal region

†436. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Maharashtra has sent any proposal to the Central Government for promoting tourism along the Konkan, coastline;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Centre has accorded approval to the proposal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The development and promotion of places of tourist interest is primarily undertaken by the State Governments themselves. However, Ministry of Tourism provides funds on the basis of projects prioritized in consultation with the State Governments every year under various schemes.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

No proposal for promotion of tourism at Konkan coastal region has either been prioritized or forwarded by the State Government for grant of Central Financial Assistance during 2008-09. However, the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned the following projects for development of tourism in Konkan region during the Tenth Plan period:

- (1) Integrated development of Western Circuit (Konkan Riviera circuit) for Rs. 502.51 lakh in the year 2002-03.
- (2) Integrated development of Konkan Riviera Circuit Part II for Rs. 685.87 lakh in the year 2004-05.
- (3) Konkan Riviera circuit Part III comprising Ganapatipule-Valneswar-Sindhudurg-Tarkali for Rs. 594.17 lakh in the year 2005-06.
- (4) Destination development of Kunkeshwar for Rs. 314.04 lakh in the year 2006-07.

Tourism potential in Rajasthan

437. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that Rajasthan has a vast potential in tourism sector;
- (b) whether Government plans to identify new tourism places in Rajasthan and develop them;
- (c) if so, which are the new places identified by Government there;
- (d) what is the financial support extended by Government; and
- (e) what is the target set for tourists both domestic and foreign to visit Rajasthan in the forthcoming year as compared to previous three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects, which are identified in consultation with them. In the current financial year, projects of Udaipur, Bala Oila and Kankwari Fort were sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism.

(d) Central Financial Assistance is extended for the following schemes:-

- (i) Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits.
- (ii) Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects.
- (iii) Computerization and Information Technology.
- (iv) Fairs, Festivals and Events.
- (v) Rural Tourism-Infrastructure and Capacity Building for Service Providers.

Project proposals that are complete in all respect are approved as per guidelines on the basis of inter-se priority and funds released subject to availability of fund.