

5 year Tax Holiday in the budget of 2007-08, for new hotels of 2, 3 and 4 star category coming up between 1.4.2007 to 31.3.2010 in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the districts of Faridabad, Gurgaon, Gautam Budh Nagar and Ghaziabad. A five year Tax Holiday was also announced in the budget of 2008-09 for hotels of 2, 3 and 4 star category located in all UNESCO declared World Heritage sites (except Mumbai and Delhi) which start operating *w.e.f.* 01.04.2008 to 31.3.2013.

#### **Trained manpower for tourism industry**

2980. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of trained manpower in tourism industry;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to train the unemployed youth under SJRY scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) by when the scheme would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) It is a fact that there is a shortage of trained manpower in hospitality industry. Under the component Skill Training for Employment Promotion amongst Urban Poor (STEP-UP) of the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY), assistance is provided to the States/Union Territories for skill training. STEP-UP intends to provide training to the urban poor in a variety of service, business and manufacturing activities as well as in local skills and local crafts. The Ministry of Tourism has launched a special programme to create employable skills amongst youth. The programme is open to a person who is at least eighth pass and in the age group of 18 to 25 years. The programme is offering two courses: one of 6 weeks duration in Food and Beverage Service and the other of 8 weeks duration in Food Production.

#### **Project proposals from Chhattisgarh**

†2981. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the projects for which proposals to get Centre's share have been received from Chhattisgarh alongwith the time thereof;
- (b) the number of those approved out of these with amount sanctioned thereof; and
- (c) whether information regarding the remaining ones is still to come, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

However, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India extends Central Financial Assistance for tourism projects based on the proposals received from them complete in all respects as per the scheme guidelines, *inter-se* priority and subject to availability of funds.

The following infrastructure projects have been sanctioned in Chhattisgarh in the 11 Plan so far by the Ministry of Tourism:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned
<b>2007-08</b>		
1.	Destination Development of Ratanpur	249.57
2.	Destination Development of Dongargarh	316.97
3.	Tourist Circuit of Raipur-Mukthangan-Champaran-Kodar	665.50
4.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Odh District Raipur	42.0.5 (for hardware dev.) 20.00 (Capacity Building for Service Providers)
<b>2008-09</b>		
1.	Development of Jagdalpur-Chitrakote-Barsur-Dantewada-Tirathgarh Mega Circuit	1133.82

#### **Shrabani Mela at Baidyanath temple**

2982. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the adobe of Baidyanath Jyotirlingam is a very ancient sacred place of worship in India, which is attracting lakhs of devotees/pilgrims from across the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering recognizing Shrabani Mela held at Baba Baidyanath temple, Deoghar, Jharkhand during the month of Shrawan as a national event; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India extends Central Financial Assistance for tourism projects including fairs/festivals and events based on the proposals received from them.