

(b) on what basis rural tourist destinations have been identified;

(c) whether the concerned States are able to develop tourist infrastructure at identified tourist destination;

(d) whether the Central Government provides assistance to the State Governments to develop infrastructure; and

(e) if so, the details of utilization of such assistance, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (e) The objective of the Ministry of Tourism's rural tourism scheme is development and promotion of rural sites having tourism potential and close proximity to tourist destinations and circuits. Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to the State Governments/Union Territories for infrastructure development in rural sites which have core-competency in art, craft, culture, handlooms/textile etc. under the Scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits. Community participation and capacity building, including skill upgradation in such rural sites are being supported through Government of India — United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project on Endogenous Tourism and Ministry of Tourism's scheme — Capacity Building for Service Providers. Based on the proposal received from State Governments/Union Territories, Ministry of Tourism sanctions Rs. 50.00 lakh for infrastructure development and Rs. 20.00 lakh for capacity building for each rural site, subject to *inter-se* priority and availability of funds under the respective heads. Ministry of Tourism has so far sanctioned 142 projects at rural tourism sites in 27 States with total CFA of Rs. 6870.95 lakh for infrastructure development and Rs. 1871.75 lakh for capacity building, the details of which are given in the Statement [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to S.O. No. 8 Pt (a) and (b)]

The implementation of the rural tourism projects is the responsibility of the State Governments. However, Ministry of Tourism monitors the implementation through site visits and review meetings from time to time.

Construction of nuclear reactors

*11. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether negotiations were held with any of the foreign countries for building nuclear reactors with their assistance to move forward the Indo-US nuclear deal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Discussions have been held with the agencies of Russian Federation, USA and France for building nuclear reactors with their assistance. The discussions covered preliminary aspects of technical, organisational, commercial and other issues involved and no specific decisions have been taken.