

Demand export status to hotel industry

1453. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether tourism industry has been affected due to global meltdown, swine flue and advisories issued by foreign countries;

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken or proposes to take to revive and boost the travel and tourism industry;

(c) whether Government is considering to grant 'deemed export status' to hotel industry; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been a decline of 9.3% in foreign tourist arrivals to the country between January and June, 2009 as compared to the corresponding period last year, as a result of global recession and travel advisories issued by countries. However, in the month of June, for the first time in the last 8 months, there has been positive growth of 0.2% in foreign tourist arrivals.

The Ministry of Tourism has taken several steps to provide incentives and to boost the travel and tourism industry. These include liberalization and enhanced financial support under the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme for service providers promoting India in overseas markets, widening the scope of the MDA Scheme for promoting Medical Tourism, Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions Tourism and Domestic Tourism and subsidising participation of the travel industry and State Governments/UT Administrations in the India Pavilions set up by the Ministry/India-tourism Offices Overseas at major international travel fairs and exhibitions.

The Ministry of Tourism has also announced a "Visit India 2009" Scheme, in collaboration with all stakeholders including airlines, hotels, tour operators, State Governments for incentivising travel of India.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Perspective plan for urban development

1454. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the need of a very comprehensive perspective plan for urban development for our cities which are in bad shape without having proper designing;

(b) whether Government is also aware of the urgency of good urban governance to tackle the problems created by urbanization such as supply of drinking water, good roads, local transportation, light, health and hygiene, sanitation, disposal of garbage, etc.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) to (c) Need for comprehensive perspective planning for urban development is duly recognised by the Government. Town and Country Planning Acts of various States lay down the matter in which Master Plans and Development Plans for the cities are to be formulated. Government of India supplements the efforts of State Governments and cities for improving the planning process through advisories, model guidelines and financial support under various schemes. Developing a comprehensive perspective plan referred to as City Development Plan is also a condition for accessing funds under the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission. The Mission provides for reform linked Central assistance for projects related to drinking water, urban transport, solid waste management, sewerage, urban renewal etc. aimed at improving governance including, land and property management, financial sustainability, basic services to urban poor and transparency and accountability. List of urban reforms under JNNURM is enclosed as statement.

Statement

List of Urban reforms under JNNURM

1. Mandatory Reforms

There will be two sets of mandatory reforms. Core reforms at ULB/Parastatal level aims at process re-engineering through deployment of technology to enable more efficient, reliable and timely services in a transparent manner. The other set of reforms are framework related at State level.

1.1 Urban Local Body/Parastatal level Reforms:—

- (i) Adoption of modern, Accrual-based double entry system of accounting in Urban Local Bodies/Parastatals.
- (ii) Introduction of system of e-governance using IT applications like, GIS and MIS for various services provided by ULBs/Parastatals.
- (iii) Reform of property tax with GIS, so that it becomes major source of revenue for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and arrangements for its effective implementation so that collection efficiency reaches at least 85% within next seven years.
- (iv) Levy of reasonable user charges by ULBs/Parastatals with the objective that full cost of operation and maintenance or recurring cost is collected within next seven years. However, cities/towns in North East and other special category States may recover at least 50% of operation and maintenance charges initially. These cities/towns should graduate to full O&M cost recovery in a phased manner.
- (v) Internal earmarking within local body, budgets for basic services to the urban poor.

- (vi) Provision of basic services to urban poor including security of tenure at affordable prices, improved housing, water supply, sanitation and ensuing delivery of other already existing universal services of the Government for education, health and social security.

1.2 State Level Reforms

- (i) Implementation of decentralization measures as envisaged in 74th Constitution Amendment Act. States should ensure meaningful association/engagement of ULBs in planning function of parastatals as well as delivery of services to the citizens.
- (ii) *Repeal of Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation Act.
- (iii) *Reform of Rent Control Laws balancing the interests of landlords and tenants.
- (iv) Rationalisation of Stamp Duty to bring it down to no more than 5% within next seven years.
- (v) Enactment of Public Disclosure Law to ensure preparation of medium-term fiscal plan of ULBs/Parastatals and release of quarterly performance information to all stakeholders.
- (vi) Enactment of Community Participation Law to institutionalize citizen participation and introducing the concept of Area Sabha in urban areas.
- (vii) Assigning or associating elected ULBs with “city planning function”. Over a period of seven years, transferring all special agencies that deliver civic services in urban areas to ULBs and creating accountability platforms for all urban civic service providers in transition.

*Note:— In respect of schemes relating to water supply and sanitation, the under mentioned State level mandatory reforms may be taken as optional reforms:—

- i. Repeal of Urban Land Ceiling Act.
- ii. Reform of Rent Control Act.

2. Optional Reforms (Common to State and ULBs/Para-statals):

- (i) Revision of bye-laws to streamline the approval process for construction of buildings, development of sites etc.
- (ii) Simplification of legal and procedural frameworks for conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.
- (iii) Introduction of Property Title Certification System in ULBs.

- (iv) Earmarking at least 20-25% of developed land in all housing projects (both Public and Private Agencies) for EWS/LIG category with a system of cross subsidization.
- (v) Introduction of computerized process of registration of land and property.
- (vi) Revision of bye-laws to make rain water harvesting mandatory in all buildings and adoption of water conservation measures.
- (vii) Buy-laws for reuse of recycled water.
- (viii) Administrative reforms *i.e.* reduction in establishment by bringing out voluntary retirement schemes, non-filling up of posts falling vacant due to retirement etc., and achieving specified milestones in this regard.
- (ix) Structural reforms.
- (x) Encouraging Public Private Partnership.

Purchase of buses under JNNURM

1455. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether various States have placed orders for 7815 buses under one-time economic funding measure by his Ministry under JNNURM;
- (b) whether Government has so far sanctioned purchase of 14695 buses for various mission cities under this programme;
- (c) whether Andhra Pradesh has placed the largest order of 1500 buses followed by Uttar Pradesh, 1310, Maharashtra, 1250 and Karnataka, 1100 buses;
- (d) whether under the scheme funding is shared by Centre, States and Municipal bodies; and
- (e) if so, how much Central assistance has been provided so far to these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) So far, orders have been placed for procurement of 10551 buses of States/Union Territories/Urban Local Bodies under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).

(b) A total of 15260 buses have been sanctioned by the Government of India under JNNURM for 61 Mission cities across the country.

(c) at present the Government of Andhra Pradesh has placed orders for 1540 buses, Uttar Pradesh for 1310, Maharashtra for 2190 and Karnataka for 1100 buses.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. So far, an amount of Rs. 1015.66 crore has been released as 1st instalment to States/UTs for procurement of buses under JNNURM.