

Hotel and hospitality infrastructure in Orissa

3607. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware that due to lack of hotels and other hospitality facilities tourists are not safe from naxal attacks in Orissa and due to which tourists visiting to Orissa has gone down in present scenario ;

(b) if so, whether Government is taking any corrective measures such as hotel infrastructure and other hospitality facilities to ensure safety of the tourists in the State from these naxal attacks; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Central Government to explore the number of tourist flow remains high in the State of Orissa and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) The number of domestic tourist visits to Orissa during the year 2008 stood at 63,58,445 (provisional) showing an increase of 7% over the previous year while the number of foreign tourist visits for the same period stood at 43,966 (provisional) showing an increase of 5% over the previous year.

Construction of hotels is primarily a private sector activity and highly capital intensive with a long gestation period. Ministry of Tourism has been in constant touch with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations including the State of Orissa, which has been advised to follow investor friendly land policies like creation of land banks, single window clearance for promoting hotel projects and also for allotting hotel sites on revenue sharing basis and granting extra FSI/FAR for hotels for the convenience of tourists. Ministry of Tourism has recently revised the 'Guidelines' for Classification of hotels wherein the issues pertaining to safety and security have been addressed.

Development and promotion of tourist destinations is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

Ministry of Tourism, through its India tourism offices overseas is undertaking a series of promotional activities with the objective of increasing foreign tourist arrivals including to the State of Orissa.

Sunderban as a tourist site

3608. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state whether Government has any plan to develop Sunderban as a world tourist site?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : 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 projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under following schemes :