

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d) Development and promotion of places of tourists interests is primarily undertaken by the Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) on the basis of project proposals received from them, complete in all respects subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority every year under the following schemes :

- (i) Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations/Circuits
- (ii) Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects
- (iii) Fairs/Festivals/Events
- (iv) Information Technology

A total of 514 projects with an amount of Rs. 155307.55 lakh had been sanctioned to States/Union Territory Administrations during the first two years of the Eleventh Plan *i.e.* 2007-08 and 2008-09 for integrated development of tourism. The efforts of the Ministry of Tourism resulted in 5.37 million (provisional) Foreign Tourist Arrivals and USD 11747 million (estimated) Foreign Exchange Earnings in 2008.

Tourism Villages

3603. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to set up Tourism Villages at appropriate places to attract tourists;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) Development and Promotion of Tourism including Rural Tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations concerned. Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for infrastructure development in rural sites having core-competency in art, craft, culture, handlooms/textiles etc. Community participation and capacity building including skill upgradation in such rural sites are supported through Government of India-United Nations Development Programmes Endogenous Tourism Project and Capacity Building for Service Providers Scheme of the Ministry.

So far 142 projects for Rs. 8742.70 lakh have been sanctioned for development and promotion of Rural Tourism in the country.

Tourism proposals from Karnataka

3604. SHRI RAJVEEV CHANDRASEKHAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state: