

(iii) Hon'ble Minister for Civil Aviation, who was in Paris for the Paris Air Show, took up the issue with his French counterpart on 17 June, 2009. The French Minister assured that he would take up the issue of the alleged discriminatory treatment of Indian nationals in transit at the Charles de Gaulle Airport with the French Interior Ministry.

(iv) During the India-EU Consular Dialogue held in New Delhi on 25 May 2009 the Government flagged the issue of the problems being encountered by Indian passengers during their transits through European airports, especially during emergency, unscheduled halts.

(v) In the short term, our intention is to ensure that Air France puts in place suitable practical arrangements, both in terms of rooming space and refreshments for Indian passengers in unscheduled transits at foreign airports. In the medium to long term, we propose to actively pursue this matter with French authorities with a view to finding a lasting solution to the problems faced by Indian nationals without valid visas while on unscheduled transits at the airports in France.

Solid waste management in urban areas

*87. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Community Participation Fund initiated by Government for solid waste management in the States has become defunct due to absence of coordination and awareness in urban local bodies;

(b) if so, whether Government has analysed the other reasons for non-performance of this scheme; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government for optimum performance and usage of Community Participation Fund to improve solid waste management in urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The Community Participation Fund (CPF) was established under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with the objective to create capacities in the communities to effectively engage and contribute in improving their living environment. The CPF is not meant for any particular Sector and it can be used for various sectors including solid waste management. The key principle of CPF is to elicit participation of the community by way of contribution to the extent of 10% of project cost. Projects costing upto a maximum of Rs.10 lakhs can be taken up under CPF. These projects may include - group water distribution project for slum managed by a users' group, a creche for children of working mothers, multipurpose community centres, building/rebuilding a local vegetable market, creation of hawking zone infrastructure, community-based information systems and services, community initiatives in sectors such as municipal solid waste at the primary level and safe drinking water facility at the locality level.

While JNNURM was launched in December, 2005, the CPF was set up under the Urban Infrastructure and Governance component of JNNURM only in June, 2007. In the last two years, 126 project proposals have been received of which 21 projects, including three solid waste management projects, have been approved for implementation in the cities of Bangalore, Faridabad, Guwahati, Kolkata and Madurai.

The Government has taken various steps to popularise the scheme among the Urban Local Bodies/communities, including issuing toolkit setting out the detailed guidelines, making the Toolkit available on the website and publishing advertisements in the national newspapers.

The total amount available under the CPF is Rs.100 crores only for the Mission period upto 2012.

Discussion with US President

†*88. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the details of discussion held between the newly elected President of United States of America and Prime Minister of India on the issue of terrorism during the recently held meet of G-20 nations in the aftermath of recent change of power in America and 26/11 terrorist attack on Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): At their meeting in London on 2 April 2009 on the sidelines of G-20 meeting, Prime Minister and the US President discussed India-US bilateral relations, and regional and global issues, including the threat that terrorism emanating from our neighbourhood poses to all free societies, and the international effort required to deal with this problem. There was a significant convergence of views and approaches in this regard. President Obama also informed PM of the new comprehensive US strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

PPP for cruise tourism

*89. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cruise tourism has attracted the affluent foreign tourists in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is considering to develop cruise tourism on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) basis; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) Cruise Tourism has tremendous potential to attract both domestic as well as foreign tourists in the country. The Cruise Shipping Policy envisages development of Port Infrastructure and connectivity on Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT)/Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model wherever possible.

Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to the State Governments/UT Administrations/Central Government Agencies under the following schemes for development of tourism including cruise tourism:

1. Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits
2. Large Revenue Generating Project
3. Assistance to Central Agencies for Infrastructure Development

Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned the following projects for development of cruise tourism in 2008-09:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.