

Ministry of Tourism has recently launched a voluntary scheme titled "Incredible India Bed and Breakfast Scheme". The main requisite of the scheme is that only those house owners, who are able to offer a minimum of one room or a maximum of five rooms of prescribed specification and who are physically residing in the house are eligible to apply for this scheme.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism has received 13 applications till date.

Promotion of Tourism in Darjeeling

†688. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new scheme to increase the number of foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the facilities that will be provided to the foreign tourists;

(c) whether Government have prepared any action plan to boost tourism in Darjeeling and to enhance further facilities for the foreign tourists there;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The existing scheme of the Ministry of Tourism 'Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits' for grant of Central Financial Assistance has been revised to ensure world class tourism infrastructure in the country to increase the number of foreign tourists. Under the revised scheme, the existing upper limit of Rs. 8.00 crore has been enhanced to Rs. 50 crore for development of identified major tourist circuit and that of Rs. 5.00 crore has been enhanced to Rs. 25.00 crore for development of identified major tourist destination for such development. In addition, another scheme for Assistance to Large Revenue Generating projects involving private participation in development of tourism infrastructure has also been revised. Under this scheme, the quantum of subsidy for the projects has been revised to Rs. 50 crore or 25% of the total project cost or 50% of promoter's contribution whichever is lower.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 902.36 lakh and released Rs. 717.38 lakh for development of Tea Tourism Circuit, setting up of Night Safari Park (for DPR preparation) and for development of Kalimpong during the year 2006-07.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.