

immigration and custom clearance, upgradation of ports infrastructural facilities, connectivity to ports, rationalisation of taxation and cabotage relaxation to promote and develop cruise tourism products. Ministry of Shipping has decided to evolve phased programmes in association with Ministry of Tourism for development facilities at ports for cruise shipping.

Setting up of special tourism zones

2380. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed any committee to study the setting up of special tourism zones;

(b) if so, the composition of the committee;

(c) what are the terms and references and recommendations of the said committee; and

(d) whether it is a fact that these recommendations were included in recently adopted National Tourism Policy?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Development of Somnath and Dwarka regions

†2381. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:

SHRI SURYAKANTBHAI ACHARYA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for the development of Somnath region and Dwarka region; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations including the State of Gujarat. However, the Ministry of Tourism from 10th Five Year Plan is extending

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them every year under the schemes for Product/ Infrastructure Development of Circuits/Destinations and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating projects.

On the basis of project proposals submitted and appraised as per guidelines, the following projects have been sanctioned for development of Somnath and Dwarka:

(Rs. in lakh)			
Sl. No.	Name of the project	Year of sanction	Amount sanctioned
1.	Development of area around Somnath Temple	2003-04	500.00
2.	Additional works in Somnath Temple	2003-04	48.81
3.	Integrated development of tourist circuit on the sector Junagadh-Veraval- Porbandar-Dwarka	2006-07	329.83

During the 10th Plan period, a total of Rs. 3366.27 lakh has been sanctioned for the State of Gujarat (till February, 2007).

Downfall in foreign tourists

2382. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry is aware of steep downfall in the volume of international tourists arriving in the country thereby affecting the tourism industry;

(b) if so, what is the estimated loss of foreign exchange; and

(c) whether Government are taking any step to reassure foreign tourists on security and other related aspects?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) There has not been any fall in the volume of international tourists in