

#### Tourism projects in Madhya Pradesh

†846. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) details of tourism development schemes currently running in Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) whether Government is considering formulation of new schemes for expansion of Madhya Pradesh tourism; and
- (c) if so, the details of that schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism in States/Union Territories is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance to the States/Union Territories to augment the tourism infrastructure based on the project proposals received from them subject to scheme guidelines, inter-se priority and availability of funds.

In the 11th Plan 33 Projects worth Rs.119.26 crore including infrastructure projects, fairs/festivals and Rural Tourism Projects have been sanctioned to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh.

#### Problems of H1 Visa holders in US

847. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any mechanism is in place to address the problems of H1 Visa holders in US on account of mismanagement by recruitment firms or consultants;
- (b) whether Government is willing to take up the issues of H1 Visa holder NRIs in US about their problems on the count of provisioning social security when they are unemployed due to the local conditions till they are re-employed; and
- (c) if so, when the Government is expected to take up and if not the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) The Emigration Act, 1983 governs the mobility of India citizens holding Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) passports for employment overseas. It does not cover H1 Visa holders who are Emigration Check Not Required (ECNR) passport holders. Therefore, recruitment firms and consultants recruiting ECNR Category of workers are not regulated under the Act.

(b) and (c) An informal dialogue on Social Security Coordination between India and the United States of America is currently underway.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.