

New initiatives specially niche tourism areas and new products to attract more foreign tourists is an ongoing process and Ministry of Tourism through the Indiatourism offices in India and overseas disseminate information to the general public through the Incredible India website.

#### **Buddhist tourism in India**

1618. SHRI PYRIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of old and new schemes to attract Buddhist tourists to India;
- (b) whether important places of Buddhist interest in Odisha have been included in such schemes; and
- (c) if so, the allocation made and the connectivity developed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED) : (a) to (c) Development of tourism schemes to attract Buddhist tourists is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism through India Tourism offices in India and overseas promotes the culture and heritage of India including Buddhist heritage through Incredible India Campaign as well as through production and distribution of brochures, posters, leaflets etc.

To promote the rich heritage of Buddhism in India, a Buddhist conclave titled 'Experience Buddhism in the land of the origin' was held at Nalanda on 6-7 February, 2010 which was attended by international scholars and Tour Operators and media. A special tourist train "Mahaparinirvan Express" run by IRCTC, Ministry of Railways covers the Buddhist sites of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance for tourism projects on the basis of proposals received from State Government. In the 10th Plan, an amount of Rupees 740.67 lakhs has been sanctioned for integrated development of Buddhist circuit at Lalitgiri, Ratanagiri, Udaigiri and Langudi by the Government of Orissa. Rupees 592.52 lakhs has so far been released.

#### **Hotel rooms for CWG**

1619. SHRI SHANTA RAM LAXMAN NAIK : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of hotel rooms of various categories available in Delhi at present;
- (b) whether Government proposes to provide additional rooms capacity in view of the forthcoming Commonwealth Games;
- (c) if so, details of the projects undertaken by various agencies;
- (d) the number of additional rooms proposed to be provided;
- (e) the expenditure involved therein; and
- (f) other related details?