

(a) the cause for closing down the Simlipal National Tourist Park of Odisha which attracts the high number of National and International tourists;

(b) whether Government has taken any action to reopen the Park;

(c) if so, by when the same would be reopened; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d) The Ministry of Tourism does not declare any place as National Tourist Park. However, the Ministry of Tourism, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects, which are identified in consultation with them under various schemes of the Ministry.

The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 8860.72 lakh during the first three years of the Eleventh Plan *i.e.* 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 to the Government of Odisha for various tourism related projects.

#### **Tax holiday for budget hotels**

2244. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether to speed up development of hotel rooms before Commonwealth Games due in October, Ministry of Tourism has urged Finance Ministry of extend benefits of five years tax holiday for budget hotels under construction in National Capital Region upto July 31, 2010 instead of earlier deadline of March, 2010;

(b) whether Ministry of Tourism has urged Finance Ministry for non-inclusion of inter-state passenger tax, road tax and toll tax in GST;

(c) whether Ministry of Tourism has demanded restoration of budget grant of Rs. 1000 crore which was reduced to Rs. 950 crores in revised estimates 2009-10; and

(d) if so, to what extent Government has considered these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. With a view to the growth of new budget category hotels, on the request of Ministry of Tourism, the Finance Minister had in Budget 2007-08, announced a Five Year Tax Holiday under Section 80-ID to new hotels of 2, 3 and 4 Star category and Convention Centers which would be functional between 01.04.2007 to 31.03.2010 in the NCT of Delhi and the districts of Faridabad, Gurgaon, Gautam Buddh Nagar (NOIDA) and Ghaziabad. Subsequently, in the Budget speech for the year 2010-11, the Finance Minister has proposed extension of the date of deadline from 31.03.2010 to 31.07.2010.

The Ministry of Tourism receive representations from the travel and hospitality industry associations for various fiscal and financial issues which are forwarded to the Ministry of Finance for consideration.

The Plan budget of Ministry of Tourism was Rs. 1,000 Crore in B.E. 2009-10. However, it was reduced to Rs. 950 Crore at R.E stage. The reduction was not restored.