

Ecotourism Resort at Majuli for an amount of Rs. 382.25 lakh to the Government of Assam in the year 2002-2003.

International police stations to protect tourists

2239. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether is it proposed to taken up with State Governments for setting up of International police stations to protect foreign and domestic tourists from harassment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

‘Public Order’ and ‘Police’ are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India and as such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime against tourists including crimes against foreign tourists, is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, in order to ensure safety and security of the tourists, Ministry of Tourism has advised all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to deploy Tourist Police in the States/Union Territories.

Tourism infrastructure in Goa

2240. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assured the State Government of Goa to improve/upgrade its tourism infrastructure;

(b) if so, nature of assurance given, finance allocated or assured;

(c) whether Government proposes to give financial assistance to the Government of Goa for developing its sea beaches; and

(d) if so, details of the financial allocations made or assurances given?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations themselves. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for tourism projects, identified in consultation and interaction with them, subject to availability of funds and *inter-se*-priority under various schemes of the Ministry.

During the first three years of the Eleventh Plan *i.e.* 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-2010, projects worth Rs. 60.15 crore have been sanctioned for integrated development of tourism in the State of Goa. This also includes a Mega project for Integrated Development of Infrastructure for Heritage and Hinterland Tourism in Goa.

Forts in Maharashtra as tourist centres

2241. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that most of the forts in Maharashtra are of historical importance and situated in the Sahyadri mountain ranges having scenic charm;

(b) whether Government is thinking to develop a few of them as tourist centres which would attract tourists;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations themselves. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for tourism projects, identified in consultation and interaction with them, subject to availability of funds and *inter-se*-priority under various schemes of the Ministry.

Ministry of Tourism had sanctioned projects worth Rs. 82.67 crore to the State of Maharashtra during the Tenth Five Year Plan which included development of Vijaydurg, Sindhudurg, Sinhagad, Sewri Fort, Ghodbundar Fort, Worli Fort, Bandra Fort, Sevadi Fort and Panhala Fort.

In addition, the Ministry of Tourism had also sanctioned projects worth Rs. 65.28 crore to the State during the first three years of the Eleventh Plan *i.e.* 2007-08 to 2009-10 which included a project for Major Circuit Development for Eco-Tourism in Vidarbha Region consisting a component for development of Tent Resort Centre at Narnala Fort.

Southern Splendour Train Project in Andhra Pradesh

2242. SHRI K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted the Southern Splendour Train Project modelled on the Palace on Wheels;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India for sanction of Rs. 10 crores as Central Financial Assistance under Large Revenue Generation Scheme; and

(d) the final decision taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The project for Southern Splendour Luxury Train submitted by the Andhra Pradesh Government with a project cost of Rs. 40.00 crore has been approved, in principle, under the Large Revenue Generating Scheme. However, the Government of Andhra Pradesh have not yet finalized the tie up with the Indian Railways.

Closing of Simlipal National Tourist Park

2243. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state: