

India tourism offices located in India and 13 overseas, as also in the electronic, print and online media through the "Incredible India" campaign.

Celebration of Sindhu Darshan Mahotsav

2701. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided to celebrate the Sindhu Darshan Mahotsav this year (2006);

(b) if so, what amount was allotted for the Mahotsav;

(c) whether Government had given sufficient publicity to ensure public participation; and

(d) the number of tourists visited the Mahotsava site?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An amount of Rs. 25.00 lakh was sanctioned for celebration of the Mahotsav during the current year.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) 29253 tourists have visited Ladakh during the current year up to July 2006.

Establishment of new hotel management institutions

†2702. SHRI ALIANWAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry would develop 15 tourist places and circuits as integrated areas for promotion of tourism industry during the year 2006-07;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry also proposes to establish four new hotel management institutions in four States in the country;

(c) if so, the places of Bihar included in such 15 tourist places; and

(d) the reasons for not considering Bihar for the establishment of four new hotel management institutions?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A tourist circuit comprising Bodhgaya, Nalanda and Rajgir has been identified for development in the State of Bihar.

(d) It has been decided to establish four new hotel management institutions in the States, which do not have any hotel management institutions supported by Ministry of Tourism, at present. An Institute of Hotel Management is already functioning at Hazipur in Bihar. There is no proposal from the State Govt. of Bihar to set up another Institute of Hotel Management in Bihar.

Development of model villages in Maharashtra and Bihar

2703. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals from the State Governments of Maharashtra and Bihar for financial assistance to their States for the development of model villages for promotion of tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The rural sites, for extending financial assistance under the scheme of Ministry of Tourism, are identified as per the recommendations received from State/UT Governments. Based on the proposals received from Maharashtra and Bihar, the funds have been released for the development of following Rural Tourism sites:—

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| (i) Sulibhanjan-Khultabad,
Distt. Aurangabad,
Maharashtra | Rs. 50 lakh sanctioned in 2003-04 for infrastructure development and Rs. 20 lakh sanctioned in 2004-05 for capacity building. |
| (ii) Nepura, Distt. Nalanda,
Bihar | Rs. 50 lakh sanctioned in 2003-04 for infrastructure development and Rs. 20 lakh sanctioned in 2004-05 for capacity building. |

The following sites have been prioritized for the year 2006-07 in consultation and interaction with the State Governments of Maharashtra and Bihar: