

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 ALI ANWAR: 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.