

(b) Yes, Sir. All the five satellites launched during 2nd week of July, 2010 and placed in their precise orbit have undergone rigorous testing under extreme temperature conditions, prior to their launching.

#### **Development of forest villages for tourism**

2822. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to identify and develop forest villages to promote eco-tourism in the country including Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise and project-wise;

(c) the details of funds sanctioned and expenditure incurred by State Governments in this regard, State-wise and project-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) to (d) There is no proposal as of now to identify and develop forest villages to promote eco-tourism.

(c) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Vacant seats in Hotel Management Institutes**

2823. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the rationale behind the National Council of hotel Management's policy of declaring those vacant seats as deemed filled up for three years course duration of BSC (HM) at Central and State IHMs in open category for which successful candidates just attend counselling and don't pay mandatory fee required for induction to any institute;

(b) the number of vacant seats which were declared filled-up under the above policy during last three years, IHM-wise, category-wise (open, SC, ST and OBC category); and

(c) the estimated financial loss due to keeping the seats vacant under above declared policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) The NCHMCT has no policy of treating the unfilled vacant seats as deemed filled up. Admission in the first year of B.Sc. Hospitality and Hotel Administration course, conducted by the various Central and State Institutes of Hotel Management (IHMs) affiliated to the National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology (NCHMCT), are done in accordance with the merit list drawn up on the basis of Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) conducted by the NCHMCT. For the academic year 2010-11, the admission counseling comprised two rounds to maximize the coverage of the candidates in the JEE related merit list.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### **Development of tourism in Orissa**

2824. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Government to develop Bhubaneswar as a centre of tourism in the eastern region;

(b) whether to increase the flow of international tourists, the Ministry has taken up with the Ministry of Civil Aviation to declare Bhubaneswar as an International Airport and also intercede with foreign airlines, particularly from South-East Asia, East Asia and Sri Lanka to operate their services to Bhubaneswar; and

(c) whether with the same objective in view, the Ministry can persuade with the Ministry of Civil Aviation to start a hopping flight of Air India Express connecting Bhubaneswar to these regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Government/ Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation with them, under various tourism schemes of the Ministry. In the year 2008-09 a mega circuit project named development of tourist circuit "Bhubaneswar-Puri-Chilka" in the State of Orissa was sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 30.23 crore.