

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.

(b) to (c) The Biju Patnaik Airport at Bhubaneswar has been taken up for development and upgradation to international standards, with a new terminal building with all modern facilities including two aerobridges and expansion of apron.

National workshop on sustainable tourism

2825. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has organized National Workshop on sustainable tourism criteria for India during July, 2010;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the aims and objectives of the said workshop;

(d) whether tourism industry in the country has registered a considerable growth in recent years;

(e) if so, the number of tourists who visited India during 2009-10 so far as compared to corresponding period of previous years; and

(f) the extent to which the tourism industry has been able to generate employment opportunities during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) to (c) A Workshop on Sustainable Tourism Criteria for India was organized by the Ministry of Tourism on 27th -28th July, 2010 in New Delhi with an objective to evolve Sustainable Tourism Criteria for India. The workshop was attended, *inter alia*, by the key stakeholders from the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations, Central Ministries, Travel, Tourism & Hospitality Industry.

(d) and (e) Tourism industry in the country has registered considerable growth in the recent years except during the calendar year 2009 where 5.11 million foreign tourists arrived in India as against 5.28 million during 2008. During the period January to July 2010, 30.85 lakh foreign tourists have visited India as compared to 28.10 lakh during the corresponding period in 2009.

(f) During the year 2007-08 the employment generated by Tourism Sector was 49.8 million.