

(b) if so, the details of new facilities proposed and new destinations identified for the purpose; and

(c) the extent to which domestic tourism is expected to increase and the funds earmarked by Government for the purpose during the year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATIRENUKACHOUDHURY): (a) to (c) In order to augment budget accommodation to give a boost to domestic tourism, the Ministry of Tourism has introduced a Scheme 'Incentive to Accommodation infrastructure' during the 10th Five Year Plan. Under this scheme, capital subsidy is granted to new hotel projects in 1 to 3 star and Heritage Basic category in the country except the four metropolitan cities, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. An amount of Rs. 10 crore has been provided in the budget for the financial year 2004-05.

Further, there is a proposal with the Ministry of Railways to set up about 100 Railway Hotels/Yatri Niwas of 100 room capacity each at the surplus land available with them.

Development of new destinations including provision of various facilities is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territories. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides Central financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territories on the basis of specific proposals received from them under the schemes of Integrated Development of tourist Circuits, Destination Development Projects and Large Revenue Generating Projects.

As per the statistics available in* the Ministry of Tourism, the number of domestic tourists which was about 270 million during the year 2002 has gone up to 309 million in the year 2003, representing an increase of about 14%. This trend is likely to continue during the current year.

Tourism in Tsunami affected areas of Tamil Nadu

130. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether tourism has been affected in Tsunami affected areas of Tamil Nadu;

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(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to revive tourist interest in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATIRENUKACHOUDHURY): (a) and (b) The State Government of Tamil Nadu has informed that there was an initial drop in tourist arrivals in the Tsunami affected areas between 26th and 31st December 2004 and subsequently tourist arrivals have picked up. Some damage to tourist cottages, boat jetty, launches, tourist amenities, etc. at Mamallapuram, Muttukadu, Kanniyakumari, Mudaliyarkuppam, Nagapattinam, Velankanni and Poompuhar has also been reported by the State Government.

(c) The Central Ministry of Tourism and the State Tourism Department of Tamil Nadu have taken immediate measures to provide information about the Tsunami affected areas in the State and to restore confidence of the tourists about India being a safe destination for travel.

Tourism projects

131. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing tourism projects pertaining to historical and archaeological importance in the different parts of the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of such projects completed so far; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for these projects to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKACHOUDHURY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance to the State Governments for development of tourist infrastructure under its various schemes which also cover places of historical and archaeological importance. The number of projects sanctioned during the Tenth Plan State-wise along with other details are placed at the Statement [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to Starred Question No. 1 part (a) and (b)]