

[1 st March, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

the amount of finance involved in the process and how to make available the required funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATIRENUKACHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The setting up of a Corpus Fund of Rs. 40,000 crore for airports, ports and tourism for lending by Inter-Institutional Group (IIG) has been announced in the Union Budget 2004-05. This will facilitate easier and quicker lending for high investment tourism projects including hotel accommodation through the consortium of Financial Institutions and Banks.

In order to augment accommodation in budget category of hotels, the Department 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 of hotels in the country except in the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. The incentive is granted in the form of Capital Grant of 10% of the total principal loan taken from designated financial institutions/Scheduled Banks or upto Rs. 25 lakh to 1 star hotels, Rs. 50 lakh to 2 star hotels, Rs. 75 lakh to 3 star and the Heritage Basic category hotels, whichever is less.

A amount of Rs. 10 crore has been provided in the Budget for the year 2004-05 under the above Scheme.

World Bank funding for restoration of water bodies

142. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have sought hefty funding from the World Bank for sustained long term development of water sector, including restoration of water bodies;

(b) whether the proposals to be financed with World Bank aid include building of a sea wall along the cost line lately hit by Tsunami; and

(c) if so, the details of the World Bank aid sought and the Bank's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such proposal has been submitted by the Government of India to the World Bank. However, a National Workshop on "Challenges of Water Development and Management in India and Future Strategy" was organized by this Ministry during January, 13-14, 2005 in which a high level delegation from the World Bank also participated. During the workshop, priority areas were indentified which also included the 'revival and restoration of water bodies'.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of water bodies

143. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

SHRIMATI S.G INDIRA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Cabinet has approved a national project for repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies directly linked to agriculture;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) what is the estimated cost of the project and the contribution of the Central Government and the State Governments; and

(d) what are the aims and objectives of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the scheme envisages taking up pilot projects in one or two districts in States during the remaining period of Xth Five Year Plan. The States shall take up restoration of water bodies having original culturable command areas of 40 ha. to 2000 ha. Repair of structures and other works can be taken up under the project. There will be district-level implementation committee for implementation of the district project in which district collector will be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be a reputed NGO to be nominated by Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India.

(c) the National Project is approved for a total outlay of Rs. 300