

[10 May, 2005]

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assistance to renovate and develop any tourism centre in Kerala is pending for sanction;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government consider to grant the assistance sought for;

(c) whether Government have already initiated action, if any, to develop tourism centres in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount of assistance sanctioned thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Identification of tourist places/spots is a continuous process. Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the State Governments, identifies such places of tourist interest and based on project proposals from the States including the State of Kerala. Ministry of Tourism offers financial assistance for development of their infrastructure every year on the basis of projects prioritized, which are processed on *inter-se*-priority and funds released, subject to availability under the respective head. During 2004-05, the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned projects worth Rs. 2193.63 lakhs for development of tourism in Kerala.

Development of tourist places in Tamil Nadu by ITDC

5078. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan for the preservation and development of tourist places in Tamil Nadu has been launched by India Tourism Development Corporation; and

(b) the assistance provided to the State Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) However, identification of tourist places/spots is a continuous process. Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with the State Governments identifies such places of tourist interest and based on project proposals from the States including the State of Tamil Nadu. Ministry of Tourism

offers financial assistance for development of their infrastructure every year on the basis of projects prioritized, which are processed on *inter-se*-priority and funds released, subject to availability under the respective head. During 2004-05, the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned projects worth Rs. 1268.92 lakhs for development of tourism in Tamil Nadu.

Ropeway Project to Chamundi Hills

5079. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has submitted any proposal seeking financial assistance for Ropeway Project to Chamundi Hills near Mysore;

(b) if so, what is the estimated cost of the above project; and

(c) what is the present status of the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The Government of Karnataka had submitted the project proposal for establishment of Passenger Ropeway at Chamundi Hills, Jog Falls and Lalbagh Gardens in Karnataka at a total cost of Rs. 3130.75 lakh under Large Revenue Generating scheme. The project was not complete in all respects as per guideline. Hence it was not approved for grant of Central financial assistance during 2004-05.

Low-cost hotels for tourists

5080. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourism industry has requested Government for reduction in taxes for hotels and an enabling environment for low-cost hotels, *i.e.* grant of soft loans for private entrepreneurs and lease etc.;

(b) whether the tourism industry has also requested for evolving other measures to boost tourism; and

(c) if so, what is the status of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The Government is seized of various periodic request from the travel and tourism industry.