

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) A 20 year Perspective Plan for sustainable development of tourism in the state has been prepared during 2002-2003.

(c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UTs. Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for the tourism projects identified in consultation with the state concerned after ensuring their viability. Ministry of Tourism has been supporting State Government of Assam for development of tourism infrastructure, development of Tourism Circuits and Rural Tourism projects. During first two years of Tenth five plan, total amount of Rs. 1081.59 lakh was sanctioned for tourism projects including rural tourism project to the State of Assam.

During the current year 2004-05, Rs. 487.75 lakh has been sanctioned for Development of NE Circuit in Guwahati and Rural Tourism at Sualkuchi in the Kamrup District.

Identification of tourist spots in Maharashtra and Punjab

2036. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of tremendous tourism potential available in States like Maharashtra and Punjab;

(b) if so, what are the tourist spots, so far, identified, State-wise; and

(c) what infrastructure and financial facilities Government propose to provide so as to popularise such tourist spots, both at national and international level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Ministry of Tourism is aware of the potential and scope of tourism in the country. Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Govts./UT Administrations. Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to the State Govts./UT Administrations for infrastructure projects and development of tourist sites in the country. The number of projects sanctioned and funds released State-wise during the last three years are

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RAJYA SABHA

given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to Unstarred Question 2031].

Opening of Tourism Management Training Institute in Bihar

†2037. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to open Tourism Management Training Institute in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

(c) At present, State of Bihar has an Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology at Patna. However, Tourism course is also being offered in some colleges of Magadh University and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU).

Development of Tourism Industry in Orissa

†2038. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any new proposal to develop tourism industry in Orissa;

(b) why Government have not taken any steps despite sufficient tourism facilities in State like Orissa;

(c) whether any fund has been released for protection of Konark temple; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Development of tourist/

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.