

Measures to improve tourism in the country

2027. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conclave of CEOs of tourism organisation has recently recommended various measures to improve tourism in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A number of recommendations were made in the Conference and at the CEOs Conclave organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in November, 2004 which *inter alia* included: building world class infrastructure including hotel accommodation; inclusion of tourism in the curriculum of schools and colleges; building tourism hubs around pilgrimage centers; single point collection of taxes for an entire circuit; setting up of Statutory Heritage Commission for laying down policies, identifying all heritage areas and aiming for heritage friendly development; placing tourism in the Concurrent List of Constitution; developing river cruises, marketing health tourism; etc.

Creation of tourism hub in Tamil Nadu

2028. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to create a tourism hub in Tamil Nadu-Kerala connecting Kodaikanal, Vaigai Dam, Suruli-falls, Thekkadi, Kannagi Temple and Sabarimala to attract more tourists in these areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI MATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) There is no such plan with a Ministry of Tourism to create a tourism hub in Tamil Nadu-Kerala. However, the development and promotion of places of tourist interest/spots is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned. The Ministry of Tourism provides funds for development of different