

process, which involves development of tourist facilities of world class quality. The Department of Tourism has already undertaken a branding exercise to communicate one clear image of Indian across the globe through its print, electronic and outdoor media. A National Tourism Policy has been formulated since 2002.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism has prioritized development of the following schemes in consultation with the State Government of Orissa for granting Central financial assistance during the current financial year-

Destination:	1. Chilka
Tourism Circuit:	1. Bhubaneswar-Puri-Konark
	2. Simplipal-Chandipur-Talsari-Panchalingeshwar
	3. Araku Valley-Sunabeda-Koraput-Malkangiri
Event/Festival:	1. Sreekshehra Vasant Utsav
	2. Ekamra Utsav
	3. Puri Beah Festival
	4. Konark Festival
Rural Tourism projects:	1. Daringi Badi Village, Phulbani Distt.
	2. Khelijajali Village

Linking up of Central Libraries

4075. SHRIBALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to inter connect and link all the Central Libraries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds to be provided for same; and

(d) the stage at which it stands at present?

[23 May, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI):
(a) Yes, Sir. Government proposes to create an intergrated bibliographic database of the National Library, Kolkata, Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi and other major Libraries.

(b) Towards this end, electronic bibliographical database is being created as select Libraries which will be subsequently linked.

(c) The said project of retro-conversion of existing catalogues of selected Libraries is anticipated to cost around Rs. 10.00 crore during the Tenth Plan.

(d) The project is in its preliminary stage.

Inflow of foreign tourists

4076. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the country attracts very less foreign tourists than its actual potential;

(b) if so, the details of the foreign tourists visited the country during each of the last three years alongwith the details of the neighbouring countries including China; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to attract more foreign tourists to the country and the target fixed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) With India's vast bounties of nature; its great treasures of art, architecture and philosophical thought; its rich cultural heritage; its rural countryside and wildlife, and practices of Yoga, Siddha, etc., it is generally felt that the present level of foreign tourist arrival to India is much below its potential.