

Gas Exporting Company (NIGEC) and the Indian companies concerned had been finalized. With a view to undertaking further studies and discussions in regard to relevant issues so that the project could take off by early next year, it was agreed to establish a special JWG on the Iran - Pakistan - India gas pipeline project. This special JWG would be divided into sub-groups to address technical, commercial, financial, contractual/legal and other related issues to realize a safe and secure would class project. The first meeting of the special JWG would be held in India between 23-25th June, 2006.

### **Development of tourism in Rajasthan**

2315. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourists both domestic and foreign tourists who visited Rajasthan, during the last three years, year-wise and category-wise;

(b) the status of Rajasthan in the country from tourism point of view;

(c) the steps being taken by the Central Government in view of its tourism potential;

(d) the amount provided to the State Government for tourism sector during the last three years;

(e) whether any proposal of State Government to boost its tourist inflow is pending consideration with Central Government;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) whether Government have formulated any scheme and programme to develop tourism in the State of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per the information received from the state Government, the number of domestic and foreign tourist visits to the State of Rajasthan during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Domestic tourist visits	Foreign tourist visits
2002	8300190	428437
2003	12545135	628560
2004	16033896	971772

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RAJYA SABHA

(b) In the year 2004, the share of Rajasthan in domestic tourist visits was 4.4% and foreign tourist was 11.7%

(c) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken by the State/UT Governments. The Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance to the States/UTs for tourism related projects, which are identified in consultation with them subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priorities.

(d) Financial assistance sanctioned for various tourism projects in the State of Rajasthan, during the last 3 years, has been as follows:

<i>(Rupees in Lakh)</i>		
Year	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
2002-03	1098.70	1098.70
2003-04	1410.51	1261.24
2004-05	2519.06	1931.01

(e) and (f) Every year meetings of State Secretaries of Tourism are organized to review the progress of projects sanctioned during the previous years, and prioritise the projects of current year for Central Financial assistance. During the year 2004-05, 11 projects for the State of Rajasthan were prioritized, and an amount of Rs. 25.19 crores was sanctioned for the same. During the year 2005-06, 3 destination projects and 1 Circuit of development of tourism in the State have prioritized in consultation with the State Government in the meeting.

(g) The Government is mainly implementing the schemes of Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits; Product/Infrastructure & Destination Development; Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects, and; Capacity Building for Service Providers under which financial assistance is provided for development of tourism in the States, including the State of Rajasthan.

#### **Development of tourist spots in Chikmanglur district**

2316. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the important places identified by the Tourism Department in Chikmanglur district in Karnataka for tourism development;