

Tourism potential of the country

2943.DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which the tourism industry being in a poor State in India and what is the country's percentage share in global tourism;

(b) the policy of Government to realise full potential of tourism in India; and

(c) the provision made in the Budget 2005-06, if any, to boost the tourism industry in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Various constraints facing the tourism sector in India include, shortage of air seat capacity, high air fares, shortage of hotel accommodation and high hotel tariffs, deficiencies in infrastructure such as airports, roads, railways, etc., facilitation of entry to India by International tourists, multiplicity and high level of taxation, restricted land use policies for tourism projects, absence of single window approach, etc. India's share in world tourist arrivals was 0.44 % in 2004.

(b) The Government has announced National Tourism Policy in the year 2002 to position India as a global brand to take advantage of the burgeoning global travel and trade, and to realize vast untapped potential of India as a destination. The Policy also aims to:

- position tourism as a major engine of economic growth;
- acknowledge the critical role of private sector, with Government working as a pro-active facilitator and catalyst;
- create and develop integrated tourism circuits based on India's unique civilization, heritage, and culture in partnership with States and private sector; and
- ensure that the tourists to India get physically invigorated, mentally rejuvenated, culturally enriched, spiritually elevated and "feel India from within".

(c) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken by the State/UT Governments. As per the information received from the State Government of Rajasthan, the budget provision made under the State Plan of Rajasthan is Rs. 24.50 crore in 2005-06. No State-wise allocations are made in the plan budget of the Ministry of Tourism. The Ministry of Tourism, however, extends financial assistance to the States/UTs for tourism related projects subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priorities, under the schemes of Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Infrastructure and Destination Development; and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects. However the Central assistance to Rajasthan sanctioned during 2004-05 was Rs. 25.16 crore.

Promotion of adventurous tourism in Andhra Pradesh

2944. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps to promote adventurous tourism in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated/released to Andhra Pradesh during the last two years and the current year for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourist places/spots including promotion of adventure tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Government/UT Administrations themselves. However, the Ministry of Tourism extends Central financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territories for development of tourism including Adventure Tourism, on the basis of the proposals received from them, subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priorities. These projects are sanctioned under the "Destination Development" and "Integrated Development of Tourism Circuit" schemes. No project proposal, complete in all respect on adventure tourism, has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh during the current year. The following amounts have been sanctioned during the last two years:—

2003-04: Rs.946.50 lakhs

2004-05: Rs.2827.69 lakhs