

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested to sanction Rs.5 crores to Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan for setting up of State Institute of Hotel and Catering Management at Dethali (Siddhpur-Patan);

(b) if so, the reasons for not clearing the proposal so far;

(c) whether as per established procedure of Government projects are to be prioritized for funding which will subsequently be sanctioned by Government;

(d) whether Ministry of Tourism has prioritized the project of State Institute of Hotel and Catering Management at Dethali in the meeting held on 20 January, 2011 for the year 2011-12; and

(e) if so, by when Government propose to sanction this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir. The proposal was received from the State Government of Gujarat seeking Central financial assistance for setting up a State Institute of Hotel Management at Dethali (Siddhpur-Patan) under Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, Patan.

(b) The proposal of the Government of Gujarat to set up Institute of Hotel Management at 'Dethali (Siddhpur-Patan) under the Hemchandracharya University could not be considered as the Institute of Hotel Management education policy was under review. Subsequently, it was decided to open new IHM's as per the targets of the 11th Five year Plan under the existing scheme guidelines.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism undertakes the exercise of prioritizing projects in consultation with the state/UT Administration. The prioritised projects are however, considered for sanction subject to adherence to the scheme guidelines and progress of the projects sanctioned earlier.

In the meeting held on 20th January, 2011 the project of Institute of Hotel and Catering Management at Dethali was prioritised for the year 2011-12.

(e) Certain clarifications have been recently sought from the State Government regarding adherence to some provisions of the existing scheme guidelines.

India Tourism London office

3997. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any officers/personnel from any Investigating Agency/UK Official Agency have visited/attended India Tourism London Office in the last two years;

(b) if so, the names of the Investigating Agency/UK Official Agency alongwith and designations and names of officers and who have verified their identities;

(c) whether any current and/or previous employees complained about the authenticity of such visit/attendance and whether any complaint filed at the UK Police department in relation to such visit/attendance; and

(d) if not, why Ministry of Tourism decided not to lodge a complaint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the report dated 14.01.2011 received from Director, India Tourism; London, two persons from an investigating agency visited the office to question Mr. Sanjay Sunder Mechery, the then Accountant, India Tourism London in connection with the money laundering and huge amount in his bank accounts. However, their identity could not be verified.

On receiving this report, the Ministry directed the Director, India Tourism, London to contact Indian Mission at London to seek their advice and take further necessary action in the matter.

(c) A notice dated 19.01.2011 about the suspension of Mr. Mechery including the issue of authenticity of visit of persons from investigating agency at India Tourism, London was received by the London office on behalf of Mr. Mechery through his Solicitor.

(d) Considering all aspects of the case, Director, India Tourism London did not consider it prudent to lodge a complaint before the police in the matter.

New tourist places in country

3998. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposals to identify and promote new tourist places in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;