

the constitution of a 'Hospitality Development and Promotion Board' (HDPB). At the Central level, the board shall be chaired by Secretary (Tourism) Government of India with Additional Director General (Tourism), JS level IAS officer, as the convener and members drawn from concerned Ministries/Department. The States/Union Territory Administrations have been advised to set up similar Boards if the same does not exist in their respective States/Union Territories.

(b) The State Governments of Mizoram, Manipur & Maharashtra have already set up State level 'Hospitality Development and Promotion Board' (HDPB). It has been informed that State Government of Bihar has a similar board viz., State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB).

(c) and (d) The 'Hospitality Development and Promotion Board' (HDPB) is a forum for facilitation of Hotel Projects for faster implementation and at present there is no State wise fiscal allocation involved.

#### **Requirements of Hotels Rooms**

1221. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the requirement of total hotel rooms in India in the next three years;
  - (b) the steps Government has taken to ensure that required rooms are constructed on time;
  - (c) whether there is shortage of funds pounded by the rupee appreciation in recent months;
- and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken to augment the funds for tourism industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED) : (a) As per the past trends in the development of hotel accommodation, the additional requirements of classified rooms in India by 2016 is projected to be over 180 thousand.

(b) In order to facilitate the clearances required by hotel projects in a time bound manner and also provide policy advice for development of hospitality sector, the Union Government has approved the constitution of a 'Hospitality Development and Promotion Board' (HDPB). The States/Union Territory Administrations have been advised to set up similar Boards if the same does not exist in their respective States/Union Territories.

(c) and (e) : (i) To encourage the growth of hotels, on the request of Ministry of Tourism, a Five Year Tax Holiday was announced in the Budget of 2008-09 for two, three & four star hotels that are established in specified districts which have UNESCO declared 'World Heritage Sites' except the revenue districts of Mumbai and Delhi. The hotel should be constructed and start functioning during the period April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2013.

(ii) The Government has recently announced the extension of Investment Linked Tax incentive under Section 35 AD of the Income Tax Act to new hotels of 2 Star category and above anywhere in India, which will facilitate the growth of Accommodation in the country.

(iii) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also issued revised Guidelines on Classification of exposures as Commercial Real Estate (CRE) Exposures. Thus, RBI has classified exposures to hotels outside the CRE Exposure.

#### **Southern splendour luxury train project**

1222. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has worked out with the Ministry of Railways the modalities, funding pattern and other aspects of the Southern Splendour Luxury Train Project (SSLTP) which has been conceptualised by the Ministry under the Large Revenue Generation Scheme;

(b) if so, the salient features of the project finally worked out;

(c) if approval of Railways has been obtained, by when release of funds and commencement of work on this project will take place; and

(d) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED) : (a) to (d) Development, promotion and implementation of various tourism infrastructure projects including luxury train projects is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. The Ministry of Tourism, provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for tourism infrastructure development projects including luxury train projects identified in consultation with them, subject to availability of funds, *inter-se*-priority and adherence to Scheme Guidelines.