

Initiation of Ganga-Darshan festival in Uttarakhand

†2614. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is likely to consider on 'Ganga-Darshan' festival in Uttarakhand like 'Sindhu-Darshan' festival of Ladakh;
- (b) if so, the details of the expenditure incurred on tourism development in Uttarakhand by the Central Government during the last three years, year-wise and the details of up to date status of the schemes for which the amount has been provided;
- (c) whether the tourism has also been adversely affected by the construction of hydro-power projects on Ganga; and
- (d) the date when the name of 'Sindhu-Darshan' festival which is held every year in Ladakh was changed and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) The development and promotion of tourism including organizing tourism related festivals is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistances for projects which are prioritized under various schemes such as Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits (PIDDC), Fairs and Festivals, Information Technology and Rural Tourism Projects. No proposal has been received for Ganga-Darshan festival from the State Government of Uttarakhand in the year 2011-12.

(b) Ministry of Tourism has not sanctioned any project for organizing Ganga-Darshan Festival in Uttarakhand during the last three years. However, Ministry has provided Central Financial Assistance under various schemes like Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits, Fairs and Festivals, Rural Tourism etc. for development of tourism in Uttarakhand during the last three years as under:

Sl.No.	Year	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in crore)
1.	2008-09	44.68
2.	2009-10	0.55
3.	2010-11	29.78

(c) As per information received from the State Government of Uttarakhand, tourism has not been adversely affected by the construction of hydro-power projects on Ganga.

(d) As per information furnished by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the name of the 'Sindhu Darshan' Festival was changed on 08.06.2007. The decision to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

change 'Sindhu Darshan' festival as 'Singhe Khababs Spring Festival' has been taken by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh. It is basically renaming the festival in local parlance and also to give a local touch to this festival and respect to the local sentiments and maintaining sanctity of Majestic Singhe Khababs (Sindhu/Indus River) the name of the festival has been modified.

Special package for North-East Region during Twelfth Plan

2615. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has proposed to declare a special package in the Twelfth Five Year Plan Period for development of Tourism in North-East Region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and State-wise steps to be taken; and
- (c) details of fund earmarked for the development of tourism in NER during Eleventh Five Year Plan indicating amount released, utilised and achievement made till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism attaches utmost importance to the development and promotion of tourism in the North Eastern Region through its various plan schemes. It extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations including the States of the North Eastern Region, for tourism related projects which are identified every year in consultation and interaction with them under the following schemes.

1. Product Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits
2. Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects
3. Information Technology
4. Fairs/Festival and Events

The Ministry of Tourism, as a part of its promotional activities releases print, electronic, online and outdoor media campaigns to promote various tourism destinations and products of the country including the North East Region. Besides, North East specific media campaigns are launched to promote the entire North East Region. The Ministry of Tourism provides complimentary space to the North Eastern States in India pavilions set up at major international travel fairs and exhibitions. Further, In relaxation of CCS (LTC) Rules 1988, the Government has decided to permit Government servants to travel by air to North Eastern Region on LTC as follows:-

- (i) Group A and Group B Central Government employees will be entitled to travel by Air from their place of posting or nearest airport to a city in the NER or nearest airport.