

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism has guidelines for approval of motel projects at implementation stage. However, the Ministry does not have any guidelines for classification of accommodation units that are approved as Motels. All applications received for star classification of hotels are examined as per prevalent guidelines.

**Protection of Lakes Tourism**

3078. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of lakes in the country, State-wise especially in North East States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has received any proposal from State Government of Assam to protect or betterment of Chandubi lake in Assam; and
- (d) whether there is any plan/scheme to protect/betterment of lake in the country in view of tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) Ministry of Environment and Forests has identified 115 wetlands including lakes, in the country, covering 24 States and 02 Union Territories, for conservation and management under National Wetland Conservation Programme. Various conservation activities under Management Action Plan of Identified Wetlands include: data collection and survey and demarcation, catchment area treatment, desilting and dredging, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, bio-diversity conservation, pollution abatement, and community participation. Research organizations are also assisted for Research and Development activities in priority areas of research to supplement Management Action Plans.

Chandubi Lake is not identified under National Wetland Conservation Programme. Only three wetlands *viz*, Deepar Beel, Sone Beel and Urpad Beel have been identified from Assam for conservation and management purposes.

Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects including the development of lakes from the tourism point of view which are identified in consultation with the States/Union Territories. Proposals which are complete in all respects as per guidelines are processed on *inter-se* priority basis and funds released subject to availability.