

**Backlog vacancies in group A to group D**

3074. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether provision inserted *vide* the 81st Amendment to the Constitution is being followed in the Ministry for all groups *i.e.* Group A to Group D;
- (b) whether backlog vacancies are notified and filled up every year;
- (c) the reasons, if any, for not following the procedure; and
- (d) the details of backlog vacancies filled during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Ministry of Tourism has been following and implementing the instructions of Department of Personnel and Training (DoP and T) *vide* dated 20.07.2000 as amended from time to time for filling up the backlog vacancies.

(b) to (d) The direct recruit vacancies including the backlog vacancies (if any) of the reserved categories in different grades of posts are reported to concerned recruiting agencies *i.e.* Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and Staff Selection Commission (SSC) from time to time as the case may be and are filled up accordingly.

For the vacancies filled up on promotion basis either in the Ministry or through the UPSC as the case may be, the Ministry is following the above instructions of DoP and T. However, there have been some instances of promotion where the post reserved for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) could not be filled up on time due to non-availability of officials in the feeder grade.

**Promotion of Buddhist Heritage of Odisha**

3075. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry would take up a special media and electronic campaign to promote Buddhist heritage of Odisha in East Asian and South East Asian regions as a part of Incredible India;
- (b) whether there is any such plan pending before Government proposed by Government of Odisha; and
- (c) if so, the status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAJ): (a) The Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic destination including Buddhist

heritage sites of Odisha in the domestic and international markets. Various Indian tourism destinations and products are promoted, *inter-alia*, through Media Campaigns, Road-Shows and tourist publicity material.

(b) and (c) Development and promotion of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance for the projects prioritized in consultation with them subject to *inter-se* priority, availability of funds and adherence to the Scheme Guidelines.

During Eleventh Five Year Plan (up to 31-12-2011), Govt. of India, Ministry of Tourism sanctioned Rs. 121.17 crore for various tourism projects including development of Buddhist tourist sites in Odisha.

#### **Special assistance for heritage sites in Rajasthan**

†3076. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money provided to the State of Rajasthan as assistance for connecting heritage sites and tourist spots in the State with the national highways in the last two years;

(b) whether in order to promote tourism in the State Government intends to provide special assistance to the State for these roads; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (c) Development and Promotion of tourism projects are primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for tourism projects, prioritized in consultation with them subject to *inter-se* priority, availability of funds and adherence to scheme guidelines.

The Ministry provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for last mile connectivity by National/State/District Highways to the destination/site under the Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations/Circuits (PIDDC) Scheme.

Eight tourism projects have been sanctioned for Rs.36.32 crore in Rajasthan during the period 2010-12 as detailed in the Statement.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.