

3 leases, Stage-I Forest Clearance has been granted by MoEF for which compliance of conditions is under progress.

Forest Clearance of 2 leases of Gua are pending with MoEF for grant of Stage-I Forest Clearance. However, for another two leases MoEF has asked State Government for clarifications.

Expansion of steel capacity

437. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether concrete steps have been taken for steel capacity expansion and achieving cost effectiveness so that in the coming decade substantial reduction in operating and raw material cost is achieved when the capacity is estimated to rise 110 mtpa by 2019-20;

(b) if so, whether rehabilitation of indigenous and tribal people, as iron-ore mining is done in economically backward States like Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Jharkhand, etc. is adequately taken; and

(c) whether it is a fact that displaced tribals in Jharkhand mining operations had to resort to agitation to protect their rights?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Steel Expansion capacity projects are being undertaken by the major steel investors based upon their own techno-commercial considerations, as steel is a deregulated sector. The technology and operation methods are decided by the individual companies to achieve optimum cost of production.

(b) Adequate measures are taken by the concerned State Governments for rehabilitation of indigenous and tribal people affected by mining operations.

(c) As per the available information, no such incidence has been reported from Jharkhand.

Foreign tourists in Assam

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

(a) the total number of foreign tourist arrival in Assam, Nationality-wise, during last five years, percentage increase or decrease and comparison with all India;

(b) whether Government has any plan to develop new tourist centres in Assam;

(c) whether any development proposals have been submitted to Government from the Assam Government;

(d) if so, the details and disposal thereof; and

(e) the ranking of Assam as foreign tourist destination in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED): (a) The number of Domestic Tourist Visits (DTV's) and Foreign Tourist Visits (FTV's) in Assam and All India during 2006 to 2011 were as follows:

(Figures in lakhs)

Year	Assam		All India	
	DTV's	FTV's	DTV's	FTV's
2006	32.69	0.11	4623.21	117.39.
2007	34.37	0.13	5265.64	132.57
2008	36.17	0.14	5630.34	143.81
2009	38.51	0.15	6688.00	143.72
2010	40.51	0.15	7402.14	178.53
2011	43.39	0.16	N.A.	N.A.
Annual Growth Rate 2006-10	5.51	7.98	12.49	11.05

N.A.: Not Available

Nationality-wise break-up of FTVs is not compiled.

(b) to (d) Development and promotion of tourist places including new tourist places, are primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations.

The proposals received from the State Governments/UT Administrations including Assam, are processed as per existing scheme guidelines, inter-se-priority and subject to availability of funds.

The details of tourism projects sanctioned to the State Governments of Assam, during the last three years, are given below:

Year	Number of Project	Amount Sanctioned
2009-10	07	22.76
2010-11	04	23.55
2011-12 (upto 31st December 2011)	03	4.23

(e) The rank of Assam in terms of FTVs during 2010 was 24th among all the States and Union Territories.

Mega tourism projects

439. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is making efforts for development of nationally