

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) by when the Union Government will give sanction for this project?

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

The project Development and Upgradation of Gandhi Ashram and its surrounding areas in Ahmedabad has not been prioritized for grant of CFA during the current financial year i.e. 2011-12.

**Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee on issues relating to Tourism**

1057. SHRI R.C. SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is not a fact that many departments and Ministries are not cooperating with the Ministry on issues relating to tourism;
- (b) if so, whether the Prime Minister has constituted an inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee to address the issues relating to tourism sector; and
- (c) the details of issues flagged of to address the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED) : (a) to (c) Tourism is multi-sectoral activity. For the development of tourism, co-operation from all concerned Ministries/Departments/Organisations is required.

An Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister to facilitate resolution of Inter-Ministerial issues involved in the development of tourism in the country as well as issues raised by industry association. The Committee includes the Member Secretary, Planning Commission, Chairman, Railway Board, Secretaries from the Ministries of Home, Defence, External Affairs, Road Transport and Highways, Civil Aviation, Rural Development, Environment and Forests, Urban Development and Secretaries from the Departments of Revenue, Expenditure, School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Labour and Employment and Ministry of Culture. Secretary, Ministry of Tourism is the Member Convener of the Committee.

The First Meeting of the Committee was held on 19th January, 2012. Issues discussed in the meeting related to facilitation of issue of visas to foreign tourists, tourist visa on arrivals, broadbasing of hospitality education, etc.