

(b) whether Government proposes to organize a "Campaign Clean India" to improve India's image abroad;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government is aware that the major tourist centres in Odisha, where Buddhism has germinated, continue in a bad shape and the ASI responsible for its keep-up does not pay the desired attention to this issue inspite of reminders from the State authorities; and

(e) if so, the action plan of the ASI to keep such monuments clean to attract tourists, especially foreigners to improve the economy of this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED) : (a) to (c) An independent study was conducted by the Ministry of Tourism in 2009 to identify major gaps that exist in terms of infrastructure and service delivery at important tourist destinations.

The study concluded that both for foreign and domestic tourists solid waste management, cleanliness and hygiene are important factors influencing tourist satisfaction levels.

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has launched Campaign Clean India for achieving acceptable standards of hygiene and cleanliness at important tourism destinations.

The campaign will be implemented by involving various stakeholders including academic institutes, Non-Governmental Organizations, travel trade, corporate sector, Industry, Government Organizations and Media etc.

(d) and (e) As per report received from Archeological Survey of India (ASI), there are four excavated Buddhist sites of national importance namely Ratnagiri, Udaygiri, Langudi and Lalitgiri in Odisha which are under the jurisdiction of ASI. According to ASI, these Buddhist sites are in good state of preservation and are neat and tidy.

Package for Promotion of Tourism in Karnataka

2445. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Karnataka has submitted many proposals seeking special package/financial assistance for promotion of tourism in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that not a single proposal is taken up for grants in the year 2011-2012;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government considers the same at least for now;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED) : (a) to (g) The development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations themselves. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance for tourism projects, identified in consultation with them, subject to availability of funds and inter-se-priority under various schemes of the Ministry.

The State Government of Karnataka did not submit any proposal for seeking special package/financial assistance for promotion of tourism in the State during the year 2011-12.

However, the Ministry of Tourism sanctioned an amount of Rs. 21.95 crore and released a sum of Rs. 17.56 crore to the State Government of Karnataka during the year 2011-12 for various tourism infrastructure development projects.

Funds for HPTDC for Online Reservation

†2446. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for facilities of online reservation from HPTDC amount to Rs. 30.59 lakh are pending with the Union Government of India;

(b) if so, the reasons for not releasing this fund to Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) the details thereof and by when the Government proposes to release this amount to Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Ministry of Tourism, Government of India had received a proposal from

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.