

In case of ISP, some of the affected persons moved the Hon'ble High Court in different writ petitions from time to time praying for its intervention in the land acquisition process and demanded higher compensation and employment. The matter is presently *sub-judice*.

Pilgrimage centres in Kerala

*369. SHRI JOY ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala's Pilgrimage Centres such as Sabarimala, Kadappattoor, Ramapuram, Bharananganam, Thangalpara and Murukanmala, situated in the districts of Kottayam, Pathanamthitta and Idukki, are visited by lakhs of pilgrims and devotees from all over India and abroad every year;

(b) if so, steps taken by Government to promote and develop pilgrim tourism in all these centres;

(c) whether Government can provide funds for the development of infrastructure and basic amenities in these centres; and

(d) whether Government would provide a special package to develop Bharananganam in Kottayam district, where the tomb and relics of St. Alphonsa are kept, as an international pilgrim centre?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Development and promotion of various tourism destinations and products, including pilgrimage centres 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 projects, identified in consultation with them, subject to availability of funds, *inter-se-priority* and adherence to scheme guidelines.

The Ministry of Tourism runs centralized campaigns in electronic, print and online media in both international and domestic markets to promote various Indian tourism destinations and products including religious tourism in a holistic manner. Besides, the Ministry participates in various International Tourism Fairs, Exhibitions, Events for the purpose. The Ministry through its Overseas Offices, *inter-alia*, organizes Road Shows, Know India Seminars, Workshops to create awareness about Indian destinations and products. The Ministry also invites international tour operators, media persons and opinion makers under its hospitality scheme to give them first hand experience of Indian tourist destinations and products.