

announced on 16 November, 2012, the visit of Prime Minister to Japan was postponed to a later date.

(b) and (c) The Governments of India and Japan signed the Agreement on Social Security and the Memorandum on Cooperation in the Rare Earths Industry in India in Tokyo on 16 November, 2012. The conclusion and signing of these agreements will further enhance and strengthen the India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership.

(d) and (e) On 25 June, 2010, the Government of Japan announced its decision to commence negotiations with the Government of India on an Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. Three rounds of formal negotiations have been held so far.

**Plan to promote religious tourism in Jammu and Kashmir**

\*192. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of existence of Chandi Mata Temple, Bhaderwah, Gupt Ganga, Bhaderwah. Vasik Naag Temple, Jamian Masjid, Kailash Kund, Thubba Temple, Subbar Naag Temple, Raushira Mata Temple, Gatha Budda Vasik Naag Temple, Nagni Mata Temple, Chandi Mata Temple Machail in Bhaderwah, Kishtwar, Doda;

(b) whether it is a fact that these temples are very ancient and have a religious and historic importance;

(c) whether Government has any plan to promote above-said places as religious tourism; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by the State Government all these religious places exist in the Bhaderwah Tehsil of Doda District except Chandi Mata Temple which is in the Padder area of District Kishtwar. These temples are old and have a religious and historic importance.

(c) and (d) Development and promotion of tourism projects including implementation and monitoring are primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UTs. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for tourism projects, which are complete as per scheme guidelines and prioritized in

consultation with the State Government, subject to the availability of funds and submission of utilization certificates for funds released earlier under various schemes.

### **Revenue through the National Clean Energy Fund**

\*193. SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Clean Energy Fund has been able to generate revenue of Rs. 1,066 crore (approx.) in 2010-11 Rs. 3,249 crore (approx.) in 2011-12 and Rs. 3,864 crore (approx.) in 2012;

(b) if so, the number of projects for research and development that have been funded so far, year-wise or, whether this fund is being used as adjunct to the General Budget to meet the regular budgetary shortfalls of the already approved and running schemes; and

(c) if so, whether the fund is being misutilised?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The total tax revenue generated through 'Clean Energy Cess' was Rs. 1,066.46 crore (Actual) for the financial year 2010-11 and Rs. 3,249.40 crore (Revised Estimates) for financial year 2011-12. In respect of the current financial year (2012-13), the budgetary estimates are of Rs. 3,864.20 crore.

(b) and (c) In all, 15 projects envisaging total support of Rs.1,974.16 crore out of the NCEF have been recommended by the Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) till date. During the F.Y. 2011-12, the IMG recommended 10 projects for NCEF support of Rs. 573.05 crore, while during the current FY., as on date, 5 projects have been recommended for NCEF funding of Rs. 1,401.11 crore. The NCEF is created for funding Research and Innovative projects in Clean Energy technologies. Clear Guidelines have been laid down for appraisal and approval of the projects/schemes eligible for financing under the Fund. The projects that have been approved and recommended for funding are based on these guidelines. The Fund is neither an adjunct to the General Budget nor is it being misutilized.

### **Factors responsible for the declining growth rate**

\*194. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: