

**Funds for development of infrastructure in Balgaum, Karnataka**

1510. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Belagavi (Belgaum) district in Karnataka is one of the most attractive tourist destinations in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government is also aware that there is need to promote the same by providing adequate funds to develop infrastructure;

(c) if so, whether the Centre is taking any steps in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) to (e) Development and promotion of various tourism destinations and products, is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for tourism projects identified in consultation with them, subject to availability of funds, inter-se-priority and adherence to the Scheme Guidelines.

Keeping the tourism potential of Belagavi (Belgaum) district in view, the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned a project 'Eco-Tourism Resort in Khanapur Forest area' at a cost of Rs. 4.40 crore and released a sum of Rs. 3.52 crore as first installment during the year 2010-11 to the State Government of Karnataka.

**Setting up of budget hotels in the country**

1511. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry explore the possibilities of setting up of budget hotels for common tourists in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) and (b) The development and construction of hotels is primarily