

pilgrims a number of these temples have been included in the work plan of the tourism sector. The development of tourism infrastructure at these temples or at identified religious destinations/circuits, such as construction of Dormitories and Public Conveniences, signages, pilgrimage Buildings, shelter sheds, site development, Public Conveniences and Walkways in the State is undertaken with financial assistance from the State Plan and with Central Financial Assistance under Product Infrastructure Development of Destinations and Circuits Scheme of the Central Government.

Development and promotion of tourism in the country

1514. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to introduce new schemes for the development and promotion of tourism;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the projects sanctioned by Government to promote health tourism during last two years, State-wise;
- (d) whether Government has any proposal to boost the tourism industry in the country and also to improve the revenue from domestic sector; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism (MOT) is continuing existing Plan Schemes during the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-2017).

(c) The development and promotion of tourism projects including those related to health tourism are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism sanctioned Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 10.00 lakh to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the project (Phase-I) involving development of pre-qualification standards for member hospitals of the Medical Tourism Society during 2011-12. The Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance under the Market Development Assistance Scheme (MDA) to approved medical tourism service providers *i.e.* representatives of hospitals accredited by Joint Commission International (JCI) and National Accreditation Board of Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) and medical tourism facilitators (travel agents/tour operators). The Ministry also provides assistance under this scheme to approved wellness centres *i.e.* representatives of wellness centres accredited by NABH or the State Government. The MDA

assistance is for participation in medical/tourism fairs/medical conferences/wellness conferences/wellness fairs and allied road shows.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. MOT is promoting the tourism industry in the country as a holistic destination in the domestic and international markets through print and electronic media campaigns, tourist literature, and publicity collaterals and also through its India Tourism offices located in India and abroad.

Claims filed under the Forest Act

1515. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons that out of 32.28 lakh claims filed under the Forest Act as of 1 August, 2012, only 12.68 lakh titles have been distributed;

(b) the details of pending claims as on 1 November, 2012, State-wise; and

(c) the efforts the Ministry is making to clear all the claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH): (a) As per the information collected from the State/UT Governments, out of 32,28,887 claims filed under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 till 1st August, 2012, total number of 27,73,631 claims (85.90% of the total claims filed) had been disposed off. The claims filed under the Act for vesting of rights are adjudicated at three levels, namely, the Gram Sabha, the Sub-Divisional Level Committee and the District Level Committee. The claims filed under this Act are finally approved by District Level Committee. Out of the total 27,73,631 claims disposed off, 12,68,766 claims were approved and the same number of titles have been distributed.

(b) The State-wise details of pending claims filed under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, as on 1st November, 2012, are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) As per the provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 and the Rules framed thereunder, the responsibility for implementing the Act lies with the State/UT Governments. The Ministry has been interacting with the State/UT Governments urging them to expedite disposal of all the pending claims at the earliest. The Ministry has issued detailed guidelines on 12.7.2012 to the State/UT Governments and also notified the Forest Rights Amendment Rules, 2012 on 6.9.2012 to ensure better and effective implementation at the ground level. The Ministry has organized five regional consultations and a national meeting with the State Governments on the implementation of Forest Rights Act to ensure its implementation in letter and spirit.