

(c) whether the Ministry has taken back any Central Financial Assistance (CFA) funds allotted to Andhra Pradesh on account of non-implementation of tourism infrastructure and HRD (State IHMs and IITTM) projects;

(d) whether there is any CFA funded project has been privatized;

(e) if so, the details of (b), (c) and (d) above;

(f) whether State Government obtained prior permission to privatize these projects; and

(g) if so, the details thereon and list of projects privatized with Ministry's permission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI) : (a) Implementation and monitoring of tourism projects is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism also monitors the progress of the projects through Regional Conferences, review meetings with the State Government officers and site visits.

(b) There is a separate cell by the name Project Monitoring Unit Cell in Andhra Pradesh Secretariat to inspect the implementation of tourism projects.

(c) Government of Andhra Pradesh has refunded Rs. 390.54 lakh to Union Ministry of Tourism on account of non-implementation of some part of the project Integrated development of Beach Circuit comprising Bhavikonda-Thotlakonda-Pavuralakonda-Appikonda.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

Enhancement of facilities to tourist at Barpeta in Assam

2284. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that lacs of tourists from various parts of India and abroad gathered during Daulutsav at Barpeta in Assam;

(b) the details of the steps taken by Government for the beautification and enhance facilities to tourist during last five years; and

(c) whether Government is going to develop infrastructure such as budget and economy hotels, affordable transport, railway connection guided tour etc. in Barpeta to attract more tourists to visit Barpeta and its nearest tourist place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the Eleventh Plan Period (2007-08 to 2011-12), the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned the following two Infrastructure projects under the scheme "Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits (PIDDC)" in respect of Barpeta :

- (i) Development of Tourist Circuit- Dhubari-Mahamaya-Barpeta-Hajo, Assam for Rs. 4.98 crore.
- ii. Development of Sarthebari-Barpeta-Patbaosi-Konora-Baghbor-Sorbhog Heritage Circuit in Assam for Rs. 7.08 crore.

(c) Development and promotion of tourism including festival is undertaken primarily by State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, however, extends financial assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism projects which are prioritized every year based on discussions with them, subject to availability of funds, inter-se-priority and adherence to the scheme guidelines.

Development of tourist centres in Jharkhand

2285. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the tourist centres in Jharkhand selected for development at national level;
- (b) the pace of development in regard thereto and the reasons for delay in its development; and
- (c) the scheme for the development of new tourism centres in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI) : (a) The identification and development of tourism projects is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance for projects which are prioritized in consultation with the State Government/UT Administration subject