

million tonnes of iron ore by the domestic iron and steel industry. Therefore, although the present production of iron ore in India is in excess of the total estimated domestic consumption by the iron and steel industry, the Ministry of Steel is of the view that export of iron ore needs to be discouraged for long term requirement of domestic iron and steel industry.

(f) The Government has decided that though conservation of iron ore resources of the country is of paramount importance, the same may not be achieved by banning or capping the export of iron ore but by taking recourse to appropriate fiscal measures. The Ministry of Steel has been taking up matter regularly with Department of Revenue for levying an appropriate export duty on iron ore to discourage its export. To improve availability of iron ore to domestic iron and steel industry at affordable price, the Government has increased the export duty on iron ore from 20% *ad valorem* to 30% *ad valorem* on all grades of iron ore (except pellets) with effect from 30.12.2011.

Development of tourism hubs in the country

735. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has a policy on development of Tourism Hubs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government has conducted any feasibility study on Tourism Hubs; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) to (e) Ministry of Tourism (MoT) has no policy or Scheme on development of Tourism Hubs. However, MoT provides Central Financial Assistance to States/Union Territories (UTs) for the development of tourism projects which are prioritized based on discussions held with them, subject to availability of funds, *inter-se* priority and adherence to the scheme guidelines.