

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce new schemes for the development and promotion of tourism in the next few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any representations have been received with regard to development and promotion of tourism from State Governments; and

(d) 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 Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-2017).

(c) and (d) The development, promotion, implementation and monitoring of tourism projects is primarily the responsibility of State Government/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for tourism projects based on proposals that are received from the States/UTs and are complete in all respects as per the Scheme Guidelines, *inter-se* priority and subject to the availability of funds. Tourism projects to be funded by Ministry of Tourism (MOT) are decided in consultation with the States/UTs in prioritization meetings held every year.

Panchayati Raj System in the country

*87. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Panchayati Raj System has been introduced in all the States of the country;

(b) whether there are any States/Union Territories where Panchayati Raj System has not been introduced;

(c) if so, the names of such States/Union Territories; and

(d) whether Ministry would issue any guidelines to those States/UTs for introducing Panchayati Raj System?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO): (a) and (b) As per Article 243B of the Constitution, three tier Panchayats at the Village, Intermediate and District levels are to be constituted in all States and Union

Territories to which Part IX of the Constitution is applicable. However, Panchayats at the Intermediate level may not be constituted in a State having a population not exceeding 20 lakh. Broadly, the three tier Panchayati Raj system operating in the country has been structured according to the relevant provisions in the Constitution.

(c) and (d) The Constitution mandates that where Part-IX applies, Panchayat elections be conducted every five years, under the overall superintendence, directions and control of the State Election Commission. Holding of elections to the Panchayats is the responsibility of the respective State Government and the State Election Commission concerned. Fourth Ordinary Elections to Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh scheduled in 2011 could not be held because the process of election was challenged before the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh on account of percentage of reservation of seats and offices for people belonging to OBCs. This Ministry had requested the State Government to limit the percentage of reservation of OBCs so that the total reservation does not exceed 50% keeping in view the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme court in WP (C) No. 356 of 1994. Elections to Panchayats were also scheduled in Puducherry in 2011, but could not be held due *inter alia* to non-appointment of State Election Commissioner. This Ministry had requested the State Government to appoint a State Election Commissioner and initiate the election process.

Tourism infrastructure development in Andhra Pradesh

†*88. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of assistance provided to Andhra Pradesh through Central Financial Assistance for tourism infrastructure development in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years, year-wise and project-wise;

(b) the details of each of the projects identified and executed/under execution in Andhra Pradesh during the last five years, year-wise; and

(c) the special emphasis the Ministry is giving in the Twelfth Plan for promotion of tourism, particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) to (c) The development and promotion of tourism destinations and products, execution of various tourism infrastructure projects and organizing fairs/festivals/events is primarily the responsibility of the respective State

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.