

Development of infrastructure connectivity in Karnataka

3383. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that Talkadu in Karnataka is one of the important tourism destinations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to develop infrastructure connectivity to Talkadu, Mudukutore and other important places in Karnataka;
- (d) if so, whether Government has allocated funds for the said purpose; and
- (e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) and (b) Talkadu and Mudukutore are important religious places known for famous temples such as Kirthinarayana, Vaidyeshwara, Pathaleshwara, Mallikarjuna Temple etc.

(c) to (e) Development and promotion of various tourism destinations and products including developing last mile connectivity, 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 infrastructure projects identified in consultation with them, subject to availability of funds, *inter-se* priority and adherence to the Scheme Guidelines.

No CFA has been given for infrastructure connectivity to Talkadu and Mudukutore by the Ministry of Tourism.

Protection to foreign tourists

3384. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of foreign tourists has decreased considerably due to some incidents in which some people died or were robbed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has contemplated any specific plan to protect foreign tourists visiting our country; and