

**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

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals in India during January-March, 2013 were 20.27 lakh (Provisional) as compared to 19.81 lakh (Provisional) during the corresponding period of 2012, registering a positive growth of 2.3%.

(b) and (c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, prevention of crime against tourists/foreign tourists is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrations. However, in order to ensure safety and security of tourists/foreign tourists, Ministry of Tourism has advised all the State Governments/UT Administrations to deploy Tourist Police. Some of the State Governments have deployed tourist police in one form or the other. Further, the guidelines for formation of Tourist Security Organization(s) comprising ex-servicemen, formulated by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in consultation with the Ministry of Defence, Home and Directorate General of Resettlements, have been forwarded to the State Governments/UT Administrations.

In addition, the Union Ministry of Tourism, along with stakeholders has adopted the Code of conduct for "Safe and Honourable Tourism", which is a set of guidelines to encourage tourism activities to be undertaken with respect for basic rights like dignity, safety and freedom from exploitation of both tourists and local residents, in particular women and children.

#### **Union Budget 2013-14 to boost the tourism**

3385. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the steps outlined in the Union Budget 2013-14 in order to boost the tourism sector of the country;

(b) the current share of international tourist arrivals that India enjoys;

(c) the long-term target of the Ministry for the share of international tourist arrivals;

(d) the estimated amount of employment that this expansion will lead to; and