

- (b) the hospitals accredited for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) Medical Tourism is a growing segment of the Tourism industry and the Ministry of Tourism has identified Medical Tourism as a niche tourism product for development.

In order to promote Medical Tourism, the Ministry of Tourism has taken following steps:

- (i) Has included Medical Tourism within the purview of Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme since February, 2009. Under this scheme, financial support is provided to the approved Medical Tourism Service Providers, *i.e.* representatives of Hospitals accredited by Joint Commission International Accredited Hospitals (JCI) and National Accreditation Board of Hospitals (NABH) and Medical Tourism facilitators (Travel Agents/Tour Operators) approved by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India subject to adherence to the scheme guidelines and availability of funds;
- (ii) The Ministry of Tourism, *inter alia*, promotes Medical Tourism along with various stakeholders by participating in various International Fairs/Events/Exhibitions and holding Road Shows and developing the publicity and promotional material.

(b) The Ministry of Tourism does not accredit hospitals etc. for Medical Tourism.

Development of religious places in Shimla

2759. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the guidelines fixed by Government for renovation/beautification of religious places in the country;
- (b) whether Government had received any proposal for renovation/beautification of Mata Durga Hatkoti Mandir in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government would take special care of this mandir as this is ancient and lakhs of devotees come here for darshan; and

(e) whether Government would include this mandir in national map as this place is situated in rural and hilly area and famous for tourist purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for development of Tourism infrastructure at tourist destinations including religious places.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Tourism has not received any proposal for renovation/beautification of Mata Durga Hatkoti Mandir in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh.

(d) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides Central Financial Assistance for tourism infrastructure projects which are prioritized in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations. The project proposals which are complete as per scheme guidelines are sanctioned and funds released subject to *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

(e) Identification of tourist places/sites is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations (UTs).

Development of tourism in Karnataka

2760. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hampi in Karnataka has been identified by Government for development through Mega Tourism Project (MTP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the Central funds so far released for this project;

(d) whether Government proposes to include more destinations in Karnataka in MTP for their development; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?