

UNESCO declared World Heritage sites (Except Mumbai and Delhi) for hotels operating w.e.f. 01.04.2008 to 31.03.2013.

- Extension of Investment Linked tax incentives under Section 35 AD of the Income Tax Act to new hotels of 2-Star category and above anywhere in India, which will facilitate growth of Accommodation in the country.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has de-linked credit for hotel projects from Commercial Real Estate (CRE), thereby enabling hotel projects to avail credit at relaxed norms and reduced interest rates.
- Hotel and Tourism related industry has been declared a high priority industry and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is allowed upto 100% under the automatic route.

Development of tourism in Bihar

2766. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money provided to the State of Bihar as assistance for connecting heritage sites and tourist spot in the State with the National Highway in the last three years;

(b) whether in order to promote tourism in the State, Government intend to provide special assistance to the State for these roads; and

(c) if so, by when special assistance will be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) to (c) Development, Promotion and implementation of tourism projects at identified tourism spots is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance for tourism projects, including that of last mile connectivity, which are prioritized in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territories. The projects that are in accordance with the scheme guidelines are sanctioned subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority.

As per approved scheme guidelines for Product/Infrastructure Development

for Destinations and Circuits (PIDDC) project, the Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance for the projects of infrastructure development including that of last mile connectivity. However, the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 67.28 crore and Rs. 57.59 crore under Tenth and Eleventh Plan period respectively for development of tourism infrastructure in the state including assistance for last mile connectivity.

International tourist arrivals

2767. 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 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
- (e) the steps being taken to bring about this change?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) to (e) The Planning Commission of India has made budget allocation of Rs. 1282.00 crore for the Ministry of Tourism for the year 2013-14. India's share in the International Tourist Arrivals in 2012 was 0.64% (provisional). The Ministry of Tourism would endeavour to increase India's share in the International Tourist Arrivals to at least 1% by the end of 12th Five Year Plan. The proposed growth, if takes place, will lead to creation of approximately 2.45 crore additional jobs directly or indirectly relating to the Tourism Sector, over the base of 2010.

The Ministry of Tourism, *inter-alia*, is planning to develop additional infrastructure, broad base Human Resource Development, expand range of tourism destinations and products, and undertake aggressive promotional and marketing activities in order to achieve the proposed goal.