

2009-10 and subsequent estimation, the contribution of Tourism in employment generation of the country during 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 were 10.2%, 10.8% (Provisional) and 11.5% (Provisional), respectively. This information is not available for 2012-13 and 2013-14.

(c) Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance for tourism projects based on the projects prioritized in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations and project proposals received from them subject to scheme guidelines and availability of funds.

The Government of India has amended its Visa Manual to extend the collective landing permits facility with effect from 1st April, 2013.

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in order to provide information services to the incoming tourists (Pre and Post arrival) and domestic tourists intends to setup contact centre services/Tourist info line.

The Ministry of Tourism has advised the State Governments/UT Administrations to follow tourism friendly policies like allotting land sites on revenue sharing basis, granting extra Floor Space Index (FSI)/Floor Area Ratio (FAR) for Hotels, Creation of Land Banks, Single Window approach for promoting Hotel Projects, Rationalization of Taxes etc., for the growth of tourism sector in the country.

(d) The Working Group on Tourism for Twelfth Five Year Plan, set up by the Planning Commission, has estimated the generation of additional employment of 24.5 million (direct and indirect) during 2010 to 2016.

Foreign Exchange Earning from tourists

2918. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign exchange earnings from tourists have increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the earnings made during the last three years; and

(c) the new measures being proposed to promote tourism industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) from tourism in India have registered increase last three years. The FEEs through tourism in India during 2011, 2012 and 2013 were Rs. 77,591 crore, Rs. 94,487 crore and Rs. 1,05,836 crore, respectively.

(c) The Government of India has amended its Visa Manual to extend the collective landing permits facility with effect from 1st April, 2013. The foreign tourists in groups of four or more arriving by air or sea and sponsored by Indian travel agencies approved by the Ministry of Tourism and with a pre-drawn itinerary will be granted Collective Landing Permit for a period not exceeding 60 days, with multiple entry facilities. In order to avail this facility the tourists or travel agencies shall mandatorily fill in an application online.

To boost tourism in the country, the Ministry of Tourism, as part of its on-going activities, annually releases print, electronic, online and outdoor media campaigns in the international markets, under the "Incredible India" brand-line, to promote various tourism destinations and products of the country and to increase foreign tourist arrivals to the country. In addition, a series of promotional activities are undertaken in important and potential tourist generating markets overseas through the India Tourism Offices abroad with the objective of showcasing India's tourism potential and promoting tourism to the country. These promotional activities include participation in travel fairs and exhibitions; organising road shows, "Know India" seminars and workshops; organizing and supporting Indian food and cultural festivals; publication of brochures, offering joint advertising and brochure support, and inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

The Marketing Development Assistance Scheme (MDA), administered by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, provides financial support to approved tourism service providers, *i.e.* hoteliers, travel agents, tour operators and tourist transport operators for undertaking the following tourism promotional activities

abroad:-

- (a) Sales-cum-study tour
- (b) Participation in Fairs/Exhibitions and Road Shows
- (c) Publicity through printed material

Tourism Departments of all States and Union Territories (UTs) are also eligible for benefits under the MDA Scheme for participation in Fairs/Exhibitions and Road Shows held overseas.

Tourism projects for Rajasthan

2919. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of tourism projects sanctioned by Government for Rajasthan during the last three years; if so, the details of their names and sanctioned amount;
- (b) whether any other projects requested by Government of Rajasthan are pending with the Ministry and the reasons for pendency of these projects; and
- (c) the number of tourists who visited the State in the last five years, domestic and foreign National-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI): (a) The number of tourism infrastructure projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India to the State of Rajasthan during last three years along with project-wise amount sanctioned is given in Statement.

(b) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for tourism infrastructure projects which are prioritized in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations. Project proposals that are complete as per scheme guidelines are sanctioned and funds released subject to *inter-se* priority, liquidation of utilization certificate's pendency and availability of funds.