

**Regulating flow of tourist to pilgrim places**

3844. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to conduct a study to assess the carrying capacity of all the major and lesser known tourist hot spots, including places of pilgrim, across the country to regulate the flow of tourists and ensure a climate resilient to tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for better planning in construction of infrastructure and other operational developmental activities at all the tourist hot spots and places of pilgrim to ensure their sustainable development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism organized a national conference of all State and Union Territory Tourism Ministers on 18.07.2013 in New Delhi and the main subject discussed was Sustainable Tourism and Carrying Capacity of Destinations. Further, based on the recommendation made by Inter-Ministerial Group on Uttarakhand in its meeting held on 02.08.2013, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has decided to conduct a study on Tourism Carrying Capacity of existing and potential destinations with planning of infrastructure development in Uttarakhand.

Ministry of Tourism has recently formulated Sustainable Tourism Criteria and Indicators, which are applicable to Accommodation Sector and Tour Operators. These are available on the Ministry of Tourism's website [www.tourism.gov.in](http://www.tourism.gov.in).

(c) Development and promotion of tourism including construction of infrastructure and other operational developmental activities at all the tourist hot spots and places of pilgrim is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to various States/UTs for various tourism projects prioritized for every financial year in consultation with them subject to availability of funds, *inter-se* priority, adherence to the scheme guidelines and liquidation of pending utilization certificates.

**Refresher course for tourist guides**

3845. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to provide a refresher course for tourist guides;