

Divesting powers of Gram Sabhas to clear change of forest land use

*244. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry's attention has been drawn to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change order dated the 28th October, 2014 divesting Gram Sabhas of their powers and allowing District Collectors to clear change of forest land use;

(b) whether such an order is in violation of the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006; and

(c) if so, whether the Ministry has taken any steps to redress the situation?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has requested the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to modify the circular.

**Development of new tourist destinations in
Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal**

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

(a) whether Government has identified certain new tourist destinations for development across the country including Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government for better infrastructure, developing new tourism destinations, especially in Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal and bringing them on the National and International tourism map ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Development, promotion, and identification of new tourism destinations is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration including States of Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal. However, the Ministry of Tourism (MOT) provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to various State Governments/Union Territory Administration for various tourism projects prioritized every year in consultation with them subject to availability of funds, *inter-se* priority, liquidation of pending utilization certificates against the funds released earlier and adherence to the scheme guidelines.