

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The development and promotion of various tourism destinations and products is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. The Ministry of Tourism, however, provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with them for each financial year, subject to availability of funds, *inter-se* priority and adherence to scheme guidelines.

The focus of Ministry of Tourism is on the improvement of existing products and developing new tourism products to be world standards in the entire country including for Gujarat. The Ministry of Tourism has taken initiative of identifying, diversifying, developing and promoting the nascent/upcoming 'niche' products of the tourism industry so as to overcome 'seasonality' and promote India as a 365 days destination, to attract tourists with specific interests and ensure repeat visits for the unique products in which India has comparative advantage.

During the Eleventh and Twelfth Five Year Plans a total number of 10 projects were sanctioned for the State of Gujarat at a total sanctioned amount of ₹8987.54 lakh and release of ₹5548.16 lakh. No subsequent project could be sanctioned for the State of Gujarat due to pendency of utilization certificates for the projects sanctioned up to the year 2012-13.

Illiteracy amongst tribals of Gujarat

456. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illiteracy is rampant among the tribals of Gujarat and other parts of country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what action Government has taken or proposes to take to spread literacy among the tribals of Gujarat and rest of the country in a big way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. While the tribals have a lower literacy rate compared to the overall National Literacy rate, the gap between the two has been reducing over the years. The national literacy rate of the tribals, as per the 2011 Census, is 58.96% and the literacy rate of tribals of Gujarat is 62.5%.

(c) The Government is implementing the following schemes to improve the literacy rate amongst the tribal population of the country:

- (i.) Pre-Matric Scholarship
- (ii.) Post-Matric Scholarship
- (iii.) Top Class Education
- (iv.) Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship
- (v.) National Overseas Scholarship
- (vi.) Vocational Training Centres
- (vii.) Establishment of Hostels for ST boys and girls
- (viii.) Establishment of Ashram Schools
- (ix.) Ekalavya Model Residential Schools

The above schemes are also available for the tribals of Gujarat.

Starvation death of tribal women and children

457. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware about the increasing incidents of starvation death of tribal women and children in many parts of tribal areas in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps Government proposes to take to solve this issue; and
- (d) the details of the number of women and children died in Attappadi, a tribal area in Kerala, in the last five years due to starvation and related diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA): (a) No such incident has come to the knowledge of Government.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(d) As per the information supplied by Government of Kerala, no starvation death is reported from Attappadi, a tribal area in Kerala, in the last five years.

Diluting the rights of tribals

458. SHRI MP. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is set to dilute the rights of tribals and