

Inter-Ministerial group to resolve tourism related issues

1100. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are differences in perception/opinion between the Ministry and other Ministries and Department regarding development of tourism across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to constitute an Inter-Ministerial group to facilitate resolution of Inter-Ministerial issues involved in the development of tourism in the country as well as issues raised by industry association;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by Government for identifying infrastructure gaps and implementing the tourism policies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Tourism follows the established procedure of Inter-Ministerial consultation in important matters relating to development of tourism. There is also an Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee on Tourism Sector (IMCCTS) to facilitate resolution of Inter-Ministerial issues involved in the development of tourism in the country.

Further, there is a National Tourism Advisory Council (NTAC) under the Chairpersonship of THE MINISTER-in-charge of Tourism. The NTAC consists of various stakeholders from Government and Private Sector. The NTAC act as a “Think Tank” and advise the Government on various policy matters relating to tourism.

(e) The development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. The Ministry of Tourism (MOT) provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations 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.

Tourists visiting Andaman and Nicobar Islands

1101. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the inflow of tourists in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, both domestic and foreign, during the last five years;