

Development of tourism infrastructure

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

(a) whether for tourism development infrastructure development precede the completion of tourism facilities;

(b) if so, whether provision of the tourism infrastructure has become a public sector responsibility;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to involve the public sector in tourism development; and

(d) the role and responsibility of Government in development of tourism infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Infrastructure development is an essential component for tourism development.

(b) Investment in tourism infrastructure requires involvement of both public and private sector.

(c) Most of the schemes implemented by the Ministry of Tourism provide for involvement of public sector in development of tourism in the country.

(d) 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 various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for various tourism projects, subject to availability of funds and adherence to the relevant scheme guidelines.

New Foreign Trade Policy

*118. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has rolled out its new Foreign Trade Policy, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps being taken to include 'Make in India' and 'Digital India' programmes to ease the trade; and

(c) the details of incentives and subsidies being offered to indigenous traders to compete with foreign traders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The Government of India has announced a new Foreign Trade Policy for the period 2015-2020 on 1st April, 2015. Details of the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020 are available at the website of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade at <http://dgft@gov.in>.

(b) The important measures taken by the Government in the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020 to include 'Make in India' and 'Digital India' programmes to ease the trade are:

- (i) Specific Export Obligation under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme, in case capital goods are procured from indigenous manufacturers has been reduced to 75% of the normal export obligation, in order to promote domestic capital goods manufacturing industry.
- (ii) Under Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), export items with high domestic content and value addition have generally been provided higher level of rewards.
- (iii) For reward schemes and duty exemption schemes, hard copies of applications and specified documents which were required to be submitted earlier have now been dispensed with.
- (iv) Landing documents of export consignment as proof for notified market, can now be digitally uploaded.
- (v) There will be no need to submit copies of permanent records/documents repeatedly with each application, once the same are uploaded in Exporter/Importer Profile.
- (vi) For faster and paperless communication with various Committees of DGFT, dedicated e-mail addresses have been provided for various Committees, *e.g.* Norms Committees, Exim Facilitation Committee etc.

(c) The Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020 introduces two new schemes, namely, 'Merchandise Exports from India Scheme' (MEIS) for incentivising export of specified goods to specified markets and 'Services Exports from India Scheme' (SEIS) for increasing exports of notified services from India. The scrips can be used for payment of customs duty, excise duty and service tax. All duty credit scrips issued under both the schemes and the goods imported against these scrips are fully transferable. Further, e-Commerce exports of certain specified employment creating sectors, made through courier or foreign post offices, have been supported under MEIS.