

- Regulating leisure and recreational services including adventure sports.
 - Address insolvencies and dispute settlement.
 - Enforcement.
- (v) Issue of Welcome Card to all international tourists arriving at 9 e-Tourist Visa designated international airports in the country.

(c) Launched the 'Incredible India' mobile application to assist international and domestic tourists to access information about Ministry of Tourism recognized tourism service providers and receive quality and reliable services from them.

Launch of 'Incredible India Help Line' *w.e.f.* 26.12.2014 on pilot basis which is accessible 24x7 and 365 days to provide authentic information to tourists and also guide them during emergencies.

(e) The revenue generated through foreign tourist inflow in the last five years is given below:

| Year | FEE in Rupees crore |
|------|---------------------|
| 2010 | 64889 |
| 2011 | 77591 |
| 2012 | 94487 |
| 2013 | 107671 |
| 2014 | 120083 |

Improving transport infrastructure for tourists

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

- (a) whether India ranks 39th and 43rd in the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index, 2011 for Air Transport Infrastructure and Ground Transport Infrastructure, respectively;
- (b) if so, the present status in this regard;
- (c) whether India ranks in respect of Airport density at 135 amongst 139 countries and 90 in respect of quality of roads;
- (d) if so, the response of Government thereto;

(e) the steps taken by Government to improve the quality of transport infrastructure; and

(f) the details of integrated plan approved and monitored by the Ministry as part of the Product/Infrastructure Development of Destination and Circuits Scheme (PIDDCS)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) 2013, of the World Economic Forum, the rank of India in Air Transport Infrastructure and Ground Transport Infrastructure was 39 and 42, respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir. As per TTCI 2011, India ranks 135 and 90 in respect of Airport density and Quality of roads amongst 139 countries.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Tourism is in continuous touch with the other Central Ministries viz. Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and Ministry of Shipping for ensuring better connectivity at various tourist destinations and upgradation of facilities for tourists. The Inter-Ministerial coordination is done through meetings and also various committees constituted for coordination.

Various initiatives taken by the Ministry of Tourism for ensuring better connectivity include:

- (i) Improvement of road connectivity leading to the tourist sites, especially from the National Highways/State highways and other entry points under the scheme "Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits".
- (ii) Assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for Improvements to roads within the Panchayat limits for Rural Tourism projects identified by them (This shall not include major road which connects the village).
- (iii) Ministry of Tourism has a scheme for assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects. Under the scheme, Projects like Tourist trains, Cruise vessels, Cruise Terminals, and last mile connectivity to tourist destinations (air and cruise including heli tourism) etc. would qualify for assistance.
- (iv) Extending financial assistance to the Port Trust for Development of cruise terminals under the Scheme for Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development.

(f) The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CF A) for tourism projects under Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz. Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits (PIDDC) to various State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, prioritized in consultation with them, as per the Scheme Guidelines, *inter-se* priority, liquidation of pending utilization certificates against the funds released earlier and subject to availability of funds.

During 2014-15, a total amount of ₹ 342.37 crore (provisional) was released to various States/UTs under PIDDC scheme. During the current financial year *i.e.* 2015-16, no allocation has been made for PIDDC to States. However, an amount of ₹ 20.00 crore has been proposed for UTs by the Ministry of Finance.

New Schemes

In the Budget for 2014-15, following two new schemes were announced:

- (i) Swadesh Darshan - Integrated Infrastructure Development as Theme-Based Tourist Circuits. The five circuits initially identified under this scheme are: Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit and North-East Circuit;
- (ii) National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD). Twelve cities initially identified under the scheme are Amritsar, Ajmer, Amaravati, Dwaraka, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Kedarnath, Kamakhya, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi and Velankani.

Finalisation of MSP for MFP

741. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) to what extent the changes in forest rules help the tribals to get a large pie of ₹ 50,000 crores annual trade of Minor Forest Produce (MFP);
- (b) whether Government has finalized the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether definition of Minor Forest Produce has been given; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?