

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)/Agreements/Letter of Intent (LoI) with various countries for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of Tourism. The main objectives of such MoUs/Agreements/LoI signed on an ongoing basis include:

- (i) Exchange of information and data related to tourism.
- (ii) Cooperation between tourism stakeholders including hotels and tour operators.
- (iii) Exchange programmes for cooperation in Human Resource Development.
- (iv) Investment in the Tourism and Hospitality Sector.
- (v) Exchange of visits of Tour Operators/Media/Opinion Makers for promotion of two way tourism.
- (vi) Exchange of experience in the areas of promotion, marketing, destination development and management.
- (vii) Participation in travel fairs/exhibitions in each other's country.

This Ministry has entered into MoUs/Agreements/LoI with Mauritius, Japan, Australia, Nepal, France, China, Tanzania, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan during the last 2 years *i.e.* 2013 and 2014 and the current year (to date).

Inquiry in SEZ allocations

1892. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD:

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has started investigations against senior officials of the Ministry over missing of 47 files relating to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) allocated to some of the country's top companies, if so, the details thereof including details of SEZs and their allottees whose files have gone missing;

(b) whether a parallel inquiry has also been initiated by the CBI against corporate beneficiaries who have bypassed norms in SEZ allocations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) No, Sir. However, based on the Newspaper Report appeared in "The Economic Times" dated 14th December, 2014, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has sought a report on irregularities in allotment of Government land to 47 SEZ developers and missing of these files. After examination, CVC was *inter-alia* informed that on scrutiny it has been found that all the files except five are available in the Department and were made available

to the Audit. The remaining five files relating to setting up of Central Government SEZs, which are of 30-50 years old, are not available. As per record retention schedule of Department of Commerce, the retention period of these files has expired.

(b) and (c) Department of Commerce has no information if any inquiry has been initiated by Central Bureau of Investigation in this regard.

Financial assistance to States to promote tourism

1893. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

SHRI K. C. TYAGI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides financial assistance to States to promote tourism particularly to UP;

(b) if so, the amount allocated to States by Government to promote tourism during the last two years;

(c) whether it is a fact that allocation of funds to tourism sector has increased during the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (d) 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 including the State of Uttar Pradesh for various tourism projects subject to availability of funds, inter-se priority, liquidation of pending utilization certificates against the funds released earlier and adherence to the relevant scheme guidelines.

The details of projects and Central Financial Assistance sanctioned for development and promotion of tourism during the last two years are given in the Statement (*See* below).

The Budget allocation for Ministry of Tourism under various plan schemes during 2014-15 and 2015-16 are as under:

Year	Budget Estimate (BE)	Revised Estimate (RE)
2014-15	1882.00	1100.00
2015-16	1483.20	--