

projects in infrastructure and core industries sectors, say 25 years, based on the economic life or concession period of the project, with periodic re-financing, say every 5 years, is allowed.

Privatization of ITDC hotels

1412. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to privatize certain hotels under India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC);

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

(c) the reasons for which most of the ITDC hotels are incurring losses despite growth in both domestic and foreign tourist arrivals; and

(d) the fresh steps taken by Government to improve the working and financial performance efficiency of ITDC hotels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is examining the proposal for leasing or selling the hotels under ITDC. The process has been initiated to obtain the approval of the State Governments concerned in respect of following properties of ITDC and its Joint Venture Companies where the land/building was leased out by the State Governments to ITDC or its Joint Venture Companies:

ITDC Hotels

- (1) Hotel Jaipur Ashok, Jaipur
- (2) Hotel Kalinga Ashok, Bhubaneswar
- (3) Hotel Jammu Ashok, Jammu
- (4) Incomplete Hotel project, Gulmarg
- (5) Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel, Mysore

Joint Venture Hotels (JVH)

- (6) Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok, Guwahati
- (7) Hotel Lake View Ashok, Bhopal
- (8) Hotel Ranchi Ashok, Ranchi

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has issued an advertisement on 9th February, 2016 for selection of Transaction Advisor for transferring of following properties of ITDC:

- (1) Hotel Lalitha Mahal Palace to the State of Karnataka.
- (2) Hotel Lake View Ashok, Bhopal (JVH) to the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (3) Hotel Jaipur Ashok, Jaipur to the State of Rajasthan.
- (4) Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok, Guwahati (JVH) to the State of Assam.

The Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) constituted by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India in its meeting held on 10.2.2016 has proposed that (i) Hotel Janpath, New Delhi, (ii) Hotel Patliputra Ashok, Patna, (iii) Hotel Bharatpur Ashok, Bharatpur, (iv) Hotel Pondicherry Ashok, Pondicherry and (v) Hotel Donyi Polo Ashok, Itanagar would be taken for disinvestment.

(c) Some of the hotels of ITDC are running into losses. The business has been affected due to global recession, on-going competition and large addition to the room inventory in various parts of the country. Manpower cost has consistently gone up. Power and Fuel costs have risen considerably although all-out efforts are being made to maintain these costs by taking energy saving measures. Non-renovation of most of the hotels has also caused loss of business.

(d) ITDC has taken steps in a planned manner to bring the hotels upto the desired international standards by carrying out essential renovation/refurbishment works over the last few years. ITDC is involved in aggressive sales and marketing in India as well as abroad through participation in major Travel Marts abroad, active digital marketing through travel portals and organizing Food Festivals abroad to promote and publicise the hotels.

Eco-tourism in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

1413. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether United Nations University sanctioned a Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) at Tirupati with a focus on eco-tourism and other aspects, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what are the other projects that are undertaken by Government in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to boost tourism along with details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by Department of Tourism and India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) to attract more foreign tourists in big cities in the two States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The instant matter does not fall under the purview of the Ministry of Tourism.