

2015. Five hundred cities including Varanasi has been taken up under AMRUT and 100 cities including Varanasi can be covered under Smart City Mission. Sewage Management is one of the admissible components under these Missions. Further, under “Smart City Mission” solid waste management is also one of the admissible components. Recently under the AMRUT, the individual households in Varanasi are being connected to the sewerage network at a cost of ₹ 105 crores, which will ensure proper disposal of liquid waste.

Further, Ministry of Urban Development had launched the National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) Scheme on 21st January, 2015, with a focus on holistic development of heritage cities. The Scheme is being implemented in 12 identified Cities including Varanasi with a total outlay of ₹ 500 crores. Sanitation and Waste Management are admissible components under HRIDAY.

In addition to the above, a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) costing ₹ 407.31 crore along with sewer network is under construction in Varanasi with GoI support and is scheduled to become functional by March 2017.

#### **National medical and wellness tourism board**

460. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the proposed National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board;

(b) whether Government tried to understand the problems being faced by foreigners who come to India for treatment;

(c) to what extent the NMWTB helps to boost medical tourism in the country; and

(d) how the board promotes alternative treatment available in the country such as Yoga, Ayurveda, Unani, Naturopathy etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (d) In order to provide dedicated institutional framework to take forward the cause of promotion of Medical Tourism, Wellness Tourism and Yoga, Ayurveda Tourism and any other format of Indian system of medicine covered by Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH), a National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board has been constituted. The Board shall work as an umbrella organization that governs and promotes this segment of tourism in an organized manner. The Ministry would drive the promotion of Medical and Wellness Tourism and will act as a facilitator and support the medical/wellness segment in promoting

tourism and promoting India as a medical and wellness destination. The Board held its first meeting on 13th January 2016 and will look into the issues relating to visa issues, accreditation of hospitals and allied services as well as marketing and promotion of Medical and Wellness Tourism.

#### **PRASAD scheme in Tamil Nadu**

461. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state how many places have been covered under PRASAD scheme in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): Out of the 13 sites currently identified under the PRASAD Scheme, two sites, namely, Kanchipuram and Vellankanni are in the State of Tamil Nadu.

#### **Organisation of road show in Delhi**

†462. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a road show was organised in Delhi jointly by Tourism Department, State Government of Uttarakhand, the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Railways two years back;

(b) if so, whether some suggestions were given by the distinguished persons attending the show;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any action was taken on those suggestions, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) The State Government of Uttarakhand has informed that they did not organise any road show in Delhi. The Ministry of Tourism also did not organize any road show in this regard.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Action taken on petitions against eviction of tribals from Polavaram dam**

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

(a) whether direction given to NCST to avoid any action on petitions relating to tribals displaced, attacked and evicted for land acquisition for Polavaram dam in A.P.;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.