

plants etc are, therefore, the sole decision of the individual steel manufacturer based on various factors including commercial considerations and market dynamics.

Development of tourism based economy

1957. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there are many countries in the World whose economy is based on tourism;

(b) if so, whether Government has any proposal to develop such States or cities or places in our country also specially from tourist objectives;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) Development and promotion of tourism is responsibility of the respective State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA), from various plan schemes, to them for tourism projects on receipt of proposal subject to adherence of existing scheme guidelines, availability of funds and liquidation of utilisation certificates for funds released earlier.

Promotion of medical tourism

1958. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any significant breakthrough has been achieved in promoting medical tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether Government has chalked out plans to make Hyderabad as a medical tourism hub since a large number of people from Arab and African countries are visiting the city for treatment; 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 State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism as part of its ongoing promotional activities releases campaigns in the international and domestic markets and also undertakes other promotional activities including Promotion of Medical Tourism.

However, in order to provide dedicated institutional framework to take forward the cause of promotion of Medical and Wellness Tourism and any other format of Indian system of medicine covered by Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) across the country, 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 & Wellness Tourism and act as a facilitator and support the medical/wellness segment in all parts of India in promoting tourism and promoting India as a medical and wellness destination.

Development of Buddhist sites

†1959. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any comprehensive scheme for development of tourism at locations related to Buddhist religion;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the quantum of amount which would be spent for the development of tourism at each location in this regard; and
- (d) the kind of cooperation being received from abroad for the development of these Buddhist sites, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism has launched a new plan scheme Swadesh Darshan for Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits in the country in the year 2014-15. Buddhist Circuit has been identified as one of the thirteen thematic circuits for development under the scheme. All places associated with Buddhist Heritage in the country are covered under this theme.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism projects including Buddhist sites in consultation with them subject to availability of funds, liquidation of pending utilization certificates and adherence to the scheme guidelines.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.