

(c) by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The State Government of Karnataka has submitted the proposal 'Development of Eco-Tourism Circuit; Uttara Kannada District (Kali River Catchment)-Dakshin Kannada, Udupi District (Netravathi-Seethanandi Catchment)-Chikamangaluru, Shivamogga and Ballari District (Tungabhadra and Bhadra River Catchment)-Kalburgi and Bidar District (Bhima River Catchment)-Mandya and Kodagu District (Kaveri River Catchment)' in February, 2017 under Swadesh Darshan Scheme for ₹ 87.43 crore.

The projects are sanctioned under the scheme subject to availability of funds, submission of suitable detailed project reports, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilization of funds released earlier.

**Tourist circuits connecting important Forts of Maharashtra**

781. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has paid any attention to develop tourist circuits connecting important forts in Maharashtra in tune with the desire of the Prime Minister expressed at Mumbai while performing jal-pujan for Shiv Smarak;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what time-bound special measures Government has taken for development of important forts to promote them as international and domestic tourist attractions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) For Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits in the country, the Ministry of Tourism (MoT) has launched Swadesh Darshan Scheme in 2014-15.

Heritage Circuit has been identified as one of the thirteen thematic circuits for development under the Scheme. All the places of historical importance in the country including forts are covered under this theme.

The Ministry has sanctioned the project 'Development of Sindhudurg Coastal Circuit in Maharashtra' under Coastal Circuit Theme of Swadesh Darshan Scheme in 2015-16 for ₹ 82.17 crore. The sites covered under the project for development include Vijaydurg, Devgarh (Fort and Beach), Mithbav, Tarkarli, Tondavali, Nivati Fort, Shiroda, Sagarashwar and Mochamad.

The Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic destination as part of its on-going activities, releases print, electronic, online and outdoor media campaigns in the international and domestic markets, under the Incredible India brand-line, to promote tourism products and destinations of the country including Forts. MoT also promotes the tourism destinations and products through its websites and publicity and promotional material produced by it from time to time. In addition, a series of promotional activities are undertaken in important and potential tourist generating markets overseas through the India Tourism Offices Overseas with the objective of showcasing India's tourism potential and increasing tourist arrivals to the country.

### **Corruption charges in ITDC**

782. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether some officials of ITDC had been debarred from posting to sensitive posts by the CVC due to charges of corruption in Commonwealth Games against them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of these officials have been posted to sensitive posts subsequently and ITDC has repeatedly written to CVC in this regard citing urgency of work;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons, why ITDC has written several letters citing urgency of work and posting of corrupt officials to sensitive posts; and

(f) whether Government would inquire into it and fix responsibility in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Based on the complaints received against some officials in the balance Engineering and Mechanical (E&M) work in renovation of Ashok Hotel, New Delhi during Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2010, Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) advised in the year 2012, for initiation of imposing major penalty proceedings against Shri Ravi Pandit and Shri Y. S. Yadav and for shifting them to non-sensitive posts. ITDC initiated action accordingly.

(c) to (f) There was acute shortage of technically qualified and experienced manpower at senior level in the Civil Engineering Cadre and due to retirement of the then General Manager (GM) (Engineering-Civil), who superannuated in January, 2015,