

Ministry of Steel for their alleged indulgence in serious corruption related offences after May, 2014, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) how many officials sued by Government previously have been convicted and punished between 2004 to 2014 and what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

#### **Corruption charges in ITDC**

4613. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 782 given in the Rajya Sabha on 8th February, 2017 and state:

(a) whether shortage of manpower and urgency of work allow to post tainted officials at sensitive posts in ITDC;

(b) if so, the rules/precedents in this regard;

(c) whether Government would initiate CBI inquiry into the whole episode;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Posting of officials at sensitive posts in India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. (ITDC) is done with the approval of competent authority keeping in mind specific job requirements and suitability of the officers and their vigilance clearance. However, if an official is barred from posting to sensitive posts by Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), then the same is being done only with the consent of CVC.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Questions do not arise.

#### **Development of culinary tourism**

4614. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to develop the market for culinary tourism in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the sites and cuisines that have been identified to pilot culinary tourism; and

(c) the status of progress and implementation of the same, along with completion timelines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism destinations and products including culinary tourism is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) under relevant schemes to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for various tourism projects subject to availability of funds, submission of Utilization Certificates for funds released earlier and adherence to the scheme guidelines.

**Development of Visakhapatnam-Vizianagaram-Srikakulam  
circuit in Andhra Pradesh**

4615. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) when the National Level Consultant engaged by the Ministry identified Visakhapatnam-Vizianagaram-Srikakulam Circuit in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) what would be the expenditure involved to develop the about Circuit;
- (c) the plan of action the Ministry has prepared to develop the above Circuit; and
- (d) by when it is going to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Visakhapatnam-Vizianagaram-Srikakulam Circuit was identified in consultation with the State Government through a study during 2011-12 by the National Level Consultant engaged by the Ministry of Tourism.

(b) As per the report of the study, the cost involved in development of the circuit is ₹704.05 crore.

(c) and (d) Development and promotion including completion of tourism projects/circuits is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to various States/UTs, including Andhra Pradesh, for creation of tourism infrastructure, under the schemes of Swadesh Dashan and PRASAD on receipt of proposals from State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism projects subject to adherence of existing scheme guidelines, availability of funds and liquidation of utilisation certificates for funds released earlier.