

and Kashmir on Doordarshan and Private TV channels to promote tourism in the regions.

- Government of India employees are allowed to avail LTC for visiting Jammu and Kashmir in lieu of Home town LTC.

Development of Eco-Tourism in Jharkhand

2710. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to develop Jharkhand State as a major tourism centre;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has drawn a massive plan to develop more tourist destinations and tourism potential in the existing tourism centres in Jharkhand;
- (d) whether any places have been identified for this purpose; and
- (e) the allocation made to execute the plans and the funds released so far, centre-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (e) To execute the plan to develop, identify more tourist destinations and tourism potential in existing tourism centres is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and Union Territories including the State Government of Jharkhand.

However, Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to tourism projects submitted by the State Government and Union Territories as per the existing scheme guidelines.

The State Government of Jharkhand has informed that they have identified 53 tourist places (centres) in the State of Jharkhand and the tourist places in the State are developed from both Central and State funds. Further they have stated that there is no specific funding pattern established for the purpose.

Initiatives taken to enhance tourism in NE States

2711. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) what are the initiatives taken by Government to enhance tourism in the North-Eastern States during the past three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the ongoing schemes; and