

Promotion of rural tourism

474. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise details of villages identified by Government to promote Rural Tourism in the country;
- (b) the total amount of funds allotted by Government for the promotion of Rural Tourism in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the execution of work have begun in these villages for improving the surroundings and roads, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Rural Circuit is one of the theme-based circuits identified for development under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism.

The projects under the scheme are identified for development in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations and are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, submission of suitable detailed project reports, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilization of funds released earlier.

The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned the project for Development of Bhitiharwa-Chandrahia-Turkaulia in Bihar under Rural Circuit theme of Swadesh Darshan Scheme in June 2017 with the central financial assistance of ₹ 44.65 crore.

Disinvestment of ITDC hotels

475. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved disinvestment of hotels and properties of ITDC;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the value of properties approved for disinvestment and minimum reserve price for auction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Government of India, which envisages that running and managing hotels on professional lines is not the work of Government or its entities, has decided to transfer to the State Governments/other Central Ministry (ies) or go in for joint leasing with the State Government in respect of 14 hotels/properties of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) Ltd.

(c) The hotels/properties are to be transferred to the State Governments/other Central Ministry(ies) or to be jointly leased out with the concerned State Government