

(c) what steps are being taken to facilitate pilgrims travelling to the Panch Kedars and ensuring availability of basic facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) to (c) The State Government of Uttarakhand has informed that to facilitate ease of travel and stay for pilgrims in Chardhams of Uttarakhand, they have constructed various residential units at different travel points in Chardham, operated by Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd. Besides, they have also constructed Rain Baseras (Accommodation Units). In addition, there are some rest houses established by Badri Kedarnath Temple committee, several private hotels, dharamshalas and ashrams, etc. Every year, additional temporary toilets on the entire Chardham Yatra Route during the Yatra season are also constructed. Uttarakhand Road Transport Corporation, Garhwal Motor Owners Union, Tehri Garhwal Motor Unions and other private owners ply buses/taxis for Chardhams.

The State Government of Uttarakhand has further informed that they are aware of basic facilities in the panch kedars. Generally developing basic facility in any particular tourist destination is an effort of private sector and Government depending on the tourist inflow of that area. Government has been time and again investing to create tourist infrastructure, though difficult terrain and forest transfer land issue do pose a challenge in timely development of these facilities.

Under District plan in Kalpeshwar Mahadev yatri niwas, work on beautification, toilets, etc. has been done and similarly, in Rudranath Mahadev enroute work on information centre, trek route, rain shelter, etc. has also been done.

The State Government of Uttarakhand has taken steps by developing tourist facilities enroute to Kedarnath, Tungnath, Madmaheswar through Central Financial Assistance funds provided by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India for Integrated Development of Kedarnath for ₹ 34.78 crore in 2015-16 under “National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive” (PRASHAD) Scheme to facilitate pilgrims travel to the Panch Kedars.

#### **Funds allocated to Bihar to promote tourism**

†638. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has prepared a number of programmes to promote tourism;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount allocated by Government in the budget for the year 2017-18 to promote tourism; and
- (d) the amount allocated to Bihar out of the same, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism has the following Schemes for promotion of tourism:—

- (i) Domestic Promotion and Publicity including Hospitality.
  - (ii) Restructured Scheme of Overseas Promotion and Publicity including Marketing Development Assistance.
- (c) The budget allocated under the above two Schemes for the year 2017-18 is as follows:—

- (i) ₹ 110.00 crore under Domestic Promotion and Publicity including Hospitality.
- (ii) ₹ 300.00 crore under Restructured Scheme of Overseas Promotion and Publicity including Marketing Development Assistance.

(d) The Ministry of Tourism does not allocate funds to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for Publicity and Promotion. However, Central Financial Assistance is provided to them for the following promotional activities, based on proposals received from the States/Union Territories, subject to adherence to scheme guidelines and availability of funds:—

- (i) Organising Fairs, Festivals and Tourism related Events
- (ii) Joint Advertising in Print Media Campaign
- (iii) Production of Publicity Material in collaboration with the Private Sector
- (iv) Promotion of film tourism

No proposal for any of the above activities has been received from the State Government of Bihar during 2017-18.

#### **Complaints from female sportspersons**

639. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has set up a high-powered committee to examine grievances and complaints of harassment from female sportspersons;