

**Renewal of licences of tourist guides**

1595. SHRI DEREK O BRIEN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is renewing the licences of tourist guides and issuing fresh licences, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware of the allegations of corruption in issuing licences to tourist guides; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to tackle such illegal practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) In terms of the decision of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in *IATO Vs UOI, Writ Petition(C) 4155/2017* and Special Leave Petition (Civil) No. 30715/2014, the Ministry of Tourism has renewed all the valid existing Regional Level Guide licenses (based on Guidelines 2011) and valid UP Tourism Guide Licenses (based on Guidelines 2003) till 31.03.2019 respectively or till the issue of new license as per the new guide policy of ASI currently under stay by Hon'ble High court of Delhi, whichever may be earlier. However, no fresh licenses are being issued by the Ministry of Tourism.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Do not arise.

**Assistance to Central Agencies for tourism infrastructure development**

1596. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of projects in the country under the scheme "Assistance to Central Agencies" undertaken in the last three years;

(b) the amount released so far and spent for manufacturing of transport coaches for Araku Valley Train, Andhra Pradesh, Illumination of monuments in Varanasi/ Sarnath Stupa, Tomb of Lalkan, Uttar Pradesh and Cruise Terminal Building at Mormugao Port Trust, Goa; and

(c) the time by which these projects will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to various Central Agencies like CPWD (Central Public Works Department), ITDC (India