

[5 August, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

Dal Lake as a heritage site

1762. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dal Lake in Srinagar is part of a precious cultural heritage; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to declare it as a heritage site and organise its conservation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Dal Lake in Srinagar has not been declared as a monument of national importance under the provisions of section 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

(b) Question does not arise.

Central assistance for tourism projects in Gujarat

1763. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

DR. A.K. PATEL:

SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Gujarat has submitted three proposals for sanction of Central assistance for tourism projects;

(b) if so, the status thereof; and

(c) by when the Central assistance for these tourism projects will be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The following proposals for development of tourism in the State of Gujarat were received in March, 2003:—

1. Development of vicinity of Sun Temple at Modhera, Distt. Mehsana
2. Infrastructure and Destination development at Nana Laija Distt. Kutch
3. Development of Heritage Village at Tera, Distt. Kutch

(b) Under the guidelines of the approved schemes of the Deptt. of Tourism, Govt, of India, one destination is taken up for development in each State every year. Govt, of Gujarat has been requested to indicate the order of priority for the execution of the projects.

(c) Central financial assistance is provided on the basis of the merits of the project, *inter se* priority and availability of funds.

Maintenance of Taj Mahal

1764. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Taj has lost its beauty and lustre;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that tiles in the monument are cracking;
- (c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and
- (d) what steps are being taken by Government to keep the monument intact?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Archaeological Survey of India is continuously taking all necessary measures for structural conservation, chemical cleaning and preservation and environmental development of the Taj Mahal, Agra.

Central assistance for infrastructural development in Orissa

1765. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the Central assistance released to the State Government of Orissa and other States for the development of infrastructure during the Ninth Five Year Plan;
- (b) the amount earmarked for the infrastructure development in the tourism sector during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and
- (c) the details of allocation made so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Details of tourism projects sanctioned and amounts