

sanctioned during 2001-2002 for Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 145.00 lakhs to be executed by the State Government of Assam through the Assam Tourism Development Corporation. The execution of the project is the responsibility of the State Government Department of Tourism, Government of India has released a sum of Rs. 43.50 lakhs as the first instalment.

(b) An amount of Rs. 382.25 lakhs has been sanctioned for Eco-Tourism Resort at Majuli Island during 2002-03 and an amount of Rs. 325.21 lakhs has been released to the Assam Tourism Development Corporation on 28.03.2003.

Rural Tourism in Assam

4773. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the actual amount of money for River Front Development along Brahmaputra and Development of Ethnic Village at Bhalukpong during the year 2002-2003; and

(b) the projects for rural tourism in Assam other than Phumen Ingti?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) :

(a) An amount of Rs. 242.00 lakhs has been sanctioned to Government of Assam for development of North East Tourist Circuit. This includes an amount of Rs. 30.00 lakhs for River Front Development along Brahmaputra and Rs. 45.00 lakhs for development of Ethnic Village of Bhalukpong.

(b) Rural tourism project has been sanctioned only at Phumen Ingti for Rs. 46.83 lakhs.

Low Budget Tourists to India

4774. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign tourists who came to the country in 2002-2003;

(b) the State-wise break-up if any, where such tourists went;

(c) whether it is a fact that the majority of foreign tourists are low-budget tourists; and

(d) whether there is any effort to attract economically well off tourists to the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) :

(a) The number of foreign tourists who visited India during the year 2002-03 is 2.45 million.