

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1672
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
DEVELOPMENT OF SUNDARBANS
SANAT KUMAR MANDAL

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

- (a) whether the Government of West Bengal has sent any proposal to the Union Government for development of tourism in Sundarbans;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount released to West Bengal Government during 2002-03; and
- (d) the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The proposal consists of following components:-

- (i) Upgradation of a part of the State owned Great Eastern Hotel;
- (ii) One non-propelled Houseboat with 16 double bedded air-conditioned cabins with modern luxurious facilities;
- (iii) One fast ferry with catamaran hull to carry 40/50 persons;
- (iv) Five small inflatable/rigid hull FRP boats for local movement;
- (v) Development of other infrastructural facilities.

(c): No amount has been released to West Bengal Government for tourism project in Sundarbans during 2002-03 so far.

(d): Keeping in view the fragile eco-system of Sundarbans, the Tourism Department of West Bengal has been requested to suggest names of suitable officers and experts for constitution of a Task Force to suggest the extent of development and to identify specific components of development project for this area.