

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:225

ANSWERED ON:03.07.2009

PROMOTION OF TOURISM

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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to formulate any 'Master Plan' and to bring changes in the tourism policy to promote tourism in the country including Himalayan States of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such 'Master Plan' and changes in the tourism policy are likely to be effected?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM(SHRI SULTAN AHMED)

(a) to (c): Development of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. However, to facilitate development of tourism in a systematic and holistic manner, the Ministry of Tourism had commissioned 20-Year Perspective Plans for most of the States/ Union Territories, including Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and the North-Eastern Region, at the beginning of the 10th Five Year Plan. The Master Plan for Uttarakhand was prepared in April, 2008. These Perspective Plans/ Master Plan identified short term and long term action plans for tourism development in the States/ UTs.

Ministry of Tourism has given in-principle approval for providing central financial assistance to the Government of Himachal Pradesh for preparation of a new long-term Master Plan for promotion of tourism in the State.

The latest Tourism Policy of the Government was formulated in 2002 after detailed interactions with the industry associations, concerned Ministries & Departments of Central Government, State Governments and other stakeholders. The policy, inter-alia, aims to create and develop integrated tourism circuits based on India's unique civilization, heritage and culture in partnership with States, private sector and other agencies. At present, there is no proposal before the Government to make changes in this policy.