

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:69

ANSWERED ON:25.02.2011

RURAL TOURISM

Jaiswal Shri Gorakh Prasad ;Singh Rajkumari Ratna

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the schemes for promoting rural tourism in the country;
- (b) the number of proposals received and sanctioned by the Union Government for grant of financial assistance to promote rural tourism in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the number of tourist spots identified and tourist centres set up in rural areas during each of the last three years and the current year, State- wise;
- (d) the number of such tourist centres operational at present; and
- (e) the other steps being taken by the Government to promote rural tourism in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.+69 ANSWERED ON 25.02.2011 REGARDING RURAL TOURISM

(a): Ministry of Tourism is implementing Rural Tourism Scheme with the main objectives of showcasing rural life, art, culture and heritage in villages which have core competence in art & crafts, handloom, textiles, natural environment, etc. Central Financial Assistance (CFA) upto 50 lakh for infrastructure development for activities like improvement of roads, landscaping, compound walls, illumination, solid waste and sewerage management, and tourist accommodation is provided to State Governments/UT Administrations for each identified rural site. 20 lakh is made available for capacity building activities like baseline survey, awareness and capacity building.

(b) & (c): Ministry of Tourism provides CFA to State Governments / UT Administrations on the basis of proposals received from them, subject to adherence to scheme guidelines, availability of funds and inter-se priority. Upto 31st December, 2010, Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned rural tourism projects for 168 sites in 28 States/UTs. The State-wise details of rural tourism projects sanctioned during the last three years and the current year are annexed.

(d): Out of the 168 sites, projects at 41 sites have been completed and commissioned.

(e): Other steps taken by Ministry of Tourism to promote rural tourism include:

Promotion in important domestic and international events

Publicity under the 'Incredible India' campaign including Creation of dedicated website for rural tourism.

Sanction of CFA of 693.64 lakh in December 2010 for a tourist circuit in Himachal Pradesh for integrated development of rural areas.