

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2609

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2011

GROWTH OF TOURISM

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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a tremendous potential for growth of Tourism in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Island and Karnataka;
- (c) whether such potential has not been fully tapped and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether studies/surveys have been conducted to assess the potential and possibilities for the growth of tourism in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)to(c): Although the tourism sector in India has grown in the recent years, it is felt that with India's vast bounties of nature, its great treasures of art, architecture and philosophical thought, its rich cultural heritage, its varied rural countryside and wildlife, and age-old practices of Yoga, Siddha, etc. spread across different States/Union Territories (UTs), there is immense tourism potential to tap, which can lead to further growth in tourism.

Development and promotion of tourism are primarily the responsibility of the State Government/UT Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance for the development of tourism infrastructure on the basis of proposals received from them which are complete in all respects as per the Scheme Guidelines, inter-se priority and subject to availability of funds. The details of the number of projects and amount sanctioned during 11th Plan till 30th September, 2011 to all States/UTs including West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Island and Karnataka are given at Annexure.

(d)and(e): To facilitate development of tourism by States/UTs in a systematic and holistic manner in the country, the Ministry of Tourism had commissioned 20-Year Perspective Plans for them at the beginning of the 10th Five Year Plan. These perspective plans, which give action plans for tourism development in the short term and long term, were sent to the State Governments/UT Administrations to guide them in initiating action for development and promotion of tourism.