

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:332

ANSWERED ON:27.04.2012

RURAL TOURISM SCHEME

Bhujbal Shri Sameer ;Verma Shri Sajjan Singh

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is implementing Rural Tourism Scheme in the country;
- (b) if so, the objectives alongwith the Central Financial Assistance (CFA) provided for the development of rural sites under the scheme;
- (c) the details of the project proposals received from the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations under the said scheme, the number of proposals sanctioned out of them alongwith the funds allocated/sanctioned, released and utilised by the State Governments and UT Administrations thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the details of the projects which have been completed and commissioned out of the sanctioned projects during the said period, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the other measures taken for the development/beautification and to provide connectivity to the rural tourist sites?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHA)

(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.332 ANSWERED ON 27.04.2012 REGARDING RURAL TOURISM SCHEME.

(a) and (b) : Yes, Madam. 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. Under this Scheme, Central Financial Assistance (CFA) upto Rs. 50.00 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 the State Government/ Union Territory Administrations for each identified rural site. Rs.20.00 lakh is made available for capacity building activities like baseline survey, awareness and capacity building.

(c) and (d): Ministry of Tourism provides CFA to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations on the basis of proposals received from them, subject to adherence to scheme guidelines, availability of funds and inter-se priority. The State-wise details of the funds sanctioned and released to the State Governments/UT Administrations during each of the last three years are given in Annexure - I. Upto 31st March, 2012 Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rural Tourism projects for 185 sites in 29 States/UTs out of which 74 have been completed. The State-wise details of total amount released, amount utilized, number of rural tourism sites sanctioned, and number of sites completed upto March 2012 are given in Annexure - II. During the current year, that is 2012-13, no funds under Rural Tourism Scheme have been sanctioned yet.

(e): Landscaping and improvement of roads within the Panchayat limits are included in the activities admissible for CFA under the Rural Tourism Scheme.