

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TOURISM  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2274  
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012  
ECO AND HELI TOURISM  
Patle Kamla Devi

**Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there is tremendous scope for development of Eco and Heli tourism in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for its development/promotion in the country;
- (c) the details of projects proposals received and sanctioned to various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for its development along with the funds allocated/released and utilisation reported thereunder during Eleventh Five Year Plan and the current year, year-wise and State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has taken note of construction of resorts near wild life parks having adverse implications on the ecology; and
- (e) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government to prevent such eco-disastrous activities?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) : Development and promotion of various tourism destinations and products including eco-tourism and Heli Tourism are primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. The Ministry of Tourism, however, provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for the projects prioritized in consultation with them subject to availability of funds, inter-se priority and adherence to the scheme guidelines. The Ministry of Tourism has also issued guidelines on 22.07.2009 to extend financial assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for construction of heliports.

Details of Central Financial Assistance given by the Ministry of Tourism during the Eleventh Five Year Plan and current financial year for projects focusing on Eco Tourism and Heli Tourism are given at the Annexure.

(d)&(e): Various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are required to obtain necessary pollution control, Forest, Coastal Zone Regulation and Environmental clearances for implementing any project that has impact on environment. The guidelines formulated for approval of hotel projects at the implementation stage and for their classification under various star categories include clauses for encouraging hotels to adopt eco-friendly measures and practices like pollution control, energy and water conservation, sewage treatment plant, rain water harvesting system and solid waste management system.

The 'guidelines for ecotourism in and around protected areas' have been finalized by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.