

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:294
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2013
ECO -TOURISM
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is immense potential for the development of eco-tourism in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken/proposed by the Government to tap its potential in the country;
- (c) the number of places indentified, developed and declared eco-tourism destinations in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has received various proposals from the States/UTs in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/proposed including the funds allocated for the purpose by the Government during the said period?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (DR. K. CHIRANJEEVI)

(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.294 ANSWERED ON 30.08.2013 REGARDING ECO-TOURISM.

(a) & (b): Eco Tourism is one of the growing segments of travel in India. Development and promotion of Tourism including Eco-Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance for tourism projects, including Eco-Tourism based on project proposals received from them and subject to inter-se priority and availability of funds.

The Ministry of Tourism has guidelines for approval of Hotel Projects at the implementation stage and also guidelines for classification of operational hotels under various categories. As per these guidelines, hotels at the project stage itself are required to incorporate various eco-friendly measures like sewage treatment plant (STP), rain water harvesting system, waste management system, pollution control, introduction of non-Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) equipment for refrigeration and air conditioning, measures for energy and water conservation etc. Under the guidelines for project level & classification/re-classification of operational hotels it has been prescribed that the architecture of the hotel buildings in hilly and ecologically fragile areas should be sustainable and energy efficient and as far as possible be in conformity with the local ethos and make use of local designs and material.

The Ministry of Tourism has formulated the Sustainable Tourism Criteria for India (STCI) for two major segments of the travel industry, mainly the accommodation sector and the tour operators' sector. The Ministry of Tourism has been promoting Eco-Tourism, inter-alia through its domestic and international campaigns. The Ministry of Tourism supports seminars and events focusing on development of Eco-Tourism, from time to time.

(c) to (e): The list of Central Financial Assistance extended to Eco-Tourism projects identified by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations during the last three years and the current year is at Annexure.