

from 500 to 200 metres. Keeping in view the similar points mentioned by the hon'ble Member, when the coastal management plan is prepared all these aspects will be covered.

Low Cost Tourist Hotels

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*539. SHRI ANIL BASU :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA
GAVIT :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of hotel accommodation at places of tourist interest particularly near the places like Agra, Jaipur, Kodai Kanal, Udaipur, Darjeeling Digha, Khajuraho. etc ;

(b) the steps taken during the last two years to augment hotel accommodation for the tourists ;

(c) the proposals which are under consideration for construction of new hotels to provide low priced accommodation for low budget tourists ;

(d) whether any funds have been released to State Governments for implementing the schemes in this regard ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRI-
DHAR GOMANGO) : (a) to (e) A state-
ment is given blow.

Statement

Shortage of hotel accommodation is generally experienced at places of tourist interest like Agra, Jaipur, Kodai Kanal, Udaipur, Darjeeling Digha, Khajuraho. etc.

Augmentation of hotel accommodation for tourists is a continuing effort, During the last two years, the India Tourism Development Corporation added 144 hotel rooms. Some of the Hotels approved by the Department of Tourism at the project

stage have also been commissioned during this period.

The India Tourism Development Corporation is having the following hotel projects under construction/consideration :

S. No.	Name of the Hotel Project	Star category	Rooms
1.	Hotel Konyi Polo Ashok Itanagar (JV*)	1-2	20
2.	Hotel Pondicherry, Ashok (JV*)	1-2	20

*JV. Joint venture projects in collaborations with State Governments/Corporations

The Department of Tourism has also approved 69 hotel projects planned for the 1 and 2 star categories in the private sector which on completion are expected to provide 2615 rooms.

In addition, Central Government also provides assistance to State Governments for the construction of Yatri Niwases.

The Department of Tourism has sanctioned funds to the State Governments for the implementation of the following projects at the places out of those mentioned in part (a) :—

S. No.	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
(Rs. in lakhs)			
1.	Beach cottages and Tourist Lodge at Digha (West Bengal)	40.17	20.00
2.	Tourist complex at Fatehpur Sikri (Agra)	69.17	63.00
3.	Yatri Niwas at Darjeeling	47.30	10.00

SHRI ANIL BASU : Tourism nowadays is considered as one of the most important sectors which can earn foreign exchange for the country. It is also an impor-

tant sector which can provide gainful employment to the unemployed educated youths of this country. In the reply, the Minister has stated that there are shortages of accommodation for the tourists. He has also stated that increase of accommodation is a continuing effort on the part of the Government. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that whether it is a fact that the number of both foreign and domestic tourists have increased considerably during the last two years and, if so, the details thereof and what is the ratio of the increase of accommodation to the increase of the number of tourists during the last two years?

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : This question mainly relates to the low project hotel accommodation for domestic as well as the foreign tourists, those who come and stay in the low cost tourists accommodation available now. Sir, over the years, the number of domestic and foreign tourists have increased. The arrival of tourists in India in 1986 had closed 29.1 per cent over the year 1985 which was 0.2. In 1987, it was 7.8. So, the arrival of tourists has increased. The accommodation which is available and the plan for providing accommodation for domestic and foreign tourists in various cities and towns have been identified. Perhaps, by 1990, we will achieve the target. All these are not done by the State Governments and the private sector as well. So, Sir, the plan we have got will be successful, only if these three sectors co-operate to construct hotels and only then the problem will be solved to some extent.

SHRI ANIL BASU : My question was regarding the ratio of increase of accommodation to the number of increase in the tourists. However, the Minister has not replied to that part of the question.

I would like to know whether the Department of Tourism or the Tourism Development Corporation of India has undertaken any study regarding the increase of number of tourists at the end of the 7th Plan and how the Government is contemplating to provide accommodation to such tourists at the end of the Plan period.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : There is shortage of accommodation as compared

to the tourist arrival in the country. By 1990, we hope to augment the existing accommodation, but still the gap between existing room capacity plus the projected hotel accommodation and the rooms required would still be there. During 7th Plan, we have got a number of schemes mainly confined to the provision of Yatri Niwases roadside amenities for tourists and one and two star hotels—as also lodges and small restaurants to be constructed by the Tourism Department. However, hotel accommodation would not be a bar to the tourists. We will be able to augment the available accommodation by 1990 to a great extent.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : A number of proposals for the construction of Yatri Niwas in Kerala have been approved by the Government of India. I would like to know the amount so far released for the construction of these Yatri Niwas in Kerala and the progress made in the construction thereof.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : We have approved the construction of Yatri Niwas at Cochin. The amount sanctioned for that in the year 1988 was Rs. 35 lakhs and the funds released so far are Rs. 10 lakhs. The work is in progress.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when the construction work on the proposed 5 star hotel at Chhatarpur, the district headquarters of Khajuraho, will be started and when the work is likely to be completed. Besides, there is a palace called the Rajgarh Palace along the bank of a river on the mountain ranges very close to Khajuraho, which is surrounded by a very beautiful valley and a beautiful forest. Is there any proposal to convert this palace into a hotel or to open a hotel there in view of its beautiful location? Do the Government propose to develop this site from tourists' point of view?

[*English*]

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : I require a fresh notice for this.