

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding grant of tax exemptions to the tourism industry.

SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY (MAHBUBNAGAR): Sir, I would like to state that in 2019 an amount of about US \$194 billion have been added in our country's gross domestic product through the tourism sector.

Today, tourism sector has developed as an industry and is playing an important role and is also associated with agriculture. It is evolving and developing as agri-tourism due to holiday accommodations with various types of food available in agricultural fields which is adding to the income of the farmers and also creating employment opportunities. Every year, there is about 20 per cent increase of income through agri-tourism which may also be an added feature to realise the goal of doubling farmers income. There is also a need to increase safety to tourists in agricultural fields. It can be ensured by issuing separate licences through Ministry of Tourism. The concerned people/ agencies involved in it may receive loans and tax exemptions. They also need to involve agricultural cooperative societies through Gram Panchayats to coordinate properly on local festivals, and they should also award diploma certificates in agri-tourism.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Tourism to give more encouragement, incentives and tax exemptions to develop agri-tourism.