

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5117
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2005
PROMOTION OF TOURISM THROUGH RAILWAYS
Budholiya Shri Rajnarayan;Rathod Shri Harisingh Nasaru

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to promote tourism through the Railways in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds allocated by the Government under the scheme; and
- (d) the benefits likely to be accrued to the Railways as a result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) to (d): The Railways have taken steps for promoting tourism by running special trains/coaches; luxury trains like the Palace on Wheels and the Deccan Odyssey; the Bharat Darshan special, a tourist train for the common people; and by providing Indrail Passes, foreign tourists reservation quota, facilitation centres for the foreign tourists etc. A new company, the Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has also been set up by the Indian Railways for providing value added tourism packages. The company is actively engaged in promotion of tourism by rail. All the above measures have been taken with a view to promoting tourism and not as a measure for accruing benefit to the Railways.