

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TOURISM  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2279  
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2005  
PALACE ON WHEELS  
Singh Shri Dushyant

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

- (a) whether the "Palace on Wheels" are attracting large number of tourists, particularly foreign tourists;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to introduce such trains in States;
- (c) whether the Ministry of Tourism has negotiated with Railways in the matter; and
- (d) if so, the response of Railways in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM(SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The Ministry of Railways in collaboration with Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) has introduced 'The Deccan Odyssey' in January, 2004. It covers the States of Maharashtra and Goa. They have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in December, 2002 with the Karnataka Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) to launch a luxury tourist train that will cover the States of Karnataka and Goa.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Does not arise.