

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
TOURISM AND CULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:181  
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2006  
GRANT OF STATUS TO TOURISM INDUSTRY  
Singh Shri Prabhunath, Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

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

- (a) the role of the Union Government with regard to the development of tourism in the country in addition to grant of funds to States;
- (b) whether the Union Government proposes to give tourism full status of industry;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT.AMBIKA SONI)

(a), (b), (c) & (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 181 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.03.2006 REGARDING GRANT OF STATUS TO TOURISM INDUSTRY

(a): The Department of Tourism, under the Government of India, functions as the nodal agency for development of tourism in the country. It plays a crucial role in coordinating and supplementing the efforts of the States/Union Territory Governments, catalyzing private sector investments, strengthening promotional and marketing efforts and in providing trained man power resources.

(b), (c) & (d): Tourism sector comprises activities of several service providers like tour operators, travel agents, airlines and hotels. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion) have announced packages for the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal by way of concession under Excise Duty, Income Tax exemption and investment subsidy etc. for certain identified thrust industries, including Eco-Tourism industries set up in these States. The Ministry of Tourism specifically gives capital investment subsidy to budget hotel projects.