

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2079
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2006
PROMOTION OF TOURISM
Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

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

- (a) the efforts made by the Government to improve infrastructure in the country to promote tourism;
- (b) the details of the funds allocated and disbursed thereof during 2005-2006;
- (c) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to State Governments to improve facilities for the use of domestic tourists;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the response of the State Governments thereto?

Answer

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

(a): Development of tourist destinations in the country is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments/Union Territories. Department of Tourism extends financial assistance for implementation of tourism projects which are identified and prioritized in consultation with the concerned State Governments/U.Ts subject to inter-se priority and availability of funds.

(b): During the year 2005-06 Rs.540.18 crore has so far been sanctioned and Rs.408.09 crore has been released for implementation of 210 tourism projects for various States/U.Ts.

(c), (d) & (e): The Department of Tourism has already instructed State Govts./UTs to make `Tourism Sub Plans` in all their `Plans` where top most priority should be given to those projects/programmes which are important from tourism point of view. The State Governments have also been asked to bring about coordination among many agencies so that a visible impact can be felt in improving the tourism products and the tourism infrastructure so as to enhance the experience of international as well as domestic tourists. The State Govts./U.Ts have responded positively to these steps.